Crescent Moon™

TOKYOPOP®

vol.2

HARUKO IIDA

STORY BY RED COMPANY/TAKAMURA MATSUDA

Crescent Moon

Harako Iida

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Volume 2

TOKYOPOP

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Crescent Moon Vol. 2

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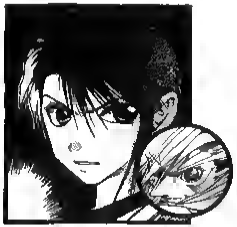
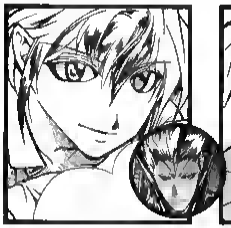


MITSURU SUOU:
A TENGU. DUE TO HIS COMPLICATED UPBRINGING, MITSURU NOT ONLY HATES AND BEGRUDGES THE HUMAN RACE, BUT DISTRUSTS THE LUNAR ONE AS WELL.

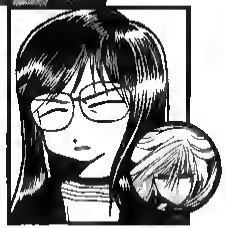
MAHIRU SHIRAISHI:

A JUNIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL. MAHIRU POSSESS THE ABILITY TO AWAKEN AND DRAW OUT THE HIDDEN POWERS OF THE "LUNAR RACE."



NOZOMU MOEGI:
A VAMPIRE. DESPITE HIS BLONDE HAIR AND BLUE EYES, HE SPEAKS WITH A KANSAI DIALECT. HE'S A SMOOTH TALKER AND LOVES THE LADIES.

AKIRA YAMABUKI:
A WEREWOLF. A HAPPY-GO-LUCKY CHARACTER, AKIRA LOATHES DWELLING ON ANYTHING SERIOUS OR DEEP FOR TOO LONG. HE'S ALSO AN EXCELLENT CHEF.



MISOKA ASAGI:
A FOX DEMON. COOL, CALM, COLLECTED AND TACIT, MISOKA ACTS INSTINCTIVELY AND IS RESPECTED AS THE UNSPOKEN LEADER.

OBORO KUROSAKI:
OWNER OF THE BAR, "MOONSHINE."

KATSURA SHION:
PIANIST FOR THE BAR, "MOONSHINE."

KIMITERU KUSAKABE:
A POLICE INSPECTOR INVESTIGATING THE "MOONLIGHT BANDITS."

YOUHEI NISHINO:
DETECTIVE KUSAKABE'S SUBORDINATE. HE IS A POLICE SERGEANT.

The Story So Far...

AFTER SHE LOST HER PARENTS IN A CAR ACCIDENT WHILE STILL JUST A KID, HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR MAHIRU HAD AMAZING DREAMS AND VISIONS OF A DEMON YOUTH AND A PRINCESS ADORNED IN CEREMONIAL AND COURTLY GARB. ADDING TO MAHIRU'S QUESTIONS ABOUT HER RECURRING VISIONS WERE RUMORS STARTED BY THE SWIMMING CLUB SHE BELONGS TO. THEY BELIEVED THAT TOUCHING MAHIRU WOULD BRING GOOD LUCK.

AS MAHIRU STRUGGLED WITH HER IDENTITY, SHE WAS SUDDENLY APPROACHED BY FOUR MYSTERIOUS YOUTHS NAMED MITSURU, NOZOMU, AKIRA AND MISOKA. THEY CLAIMED HER TO BE THE "DESCENDENT OF THE PRINCESS," AND THEIR ONLY HOPE FOR RECLAIMING THE GEMS NAMED "THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON" WHICH WERE STOLEN BY HUMANS OVER 1000 YEARS AGO.

THESE YOUTHS WERE NOT HUMANS BUT MEMBERS OF A "MONSTROUS" RACE NAMED THE PEOPLE OF THE MOON, WHO, WHILE IN TOKYO, HAD FORMED A BAND OF THIEVES KNOWN AS THE MOONLIGHT BANDITS. FROM THESE YOUTHS, MAHIRU LEARNED SHE IS THE DESCENDENT OF THE MINISTER OF THE LEFT'S PRINCESS, WHOSE ANCESTORS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR STEALING THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON SO MANY YEARS AGO. IT IS ALSO BECAUSE OF THIS HERITAGE THAT MAHIRU POSSESSES THE ABILITY TO DRAW OUT THE HIDDEN ABILITIES AND POWERS OF THE "LUNAR RACE."

ALTHOUGH AT FIRST, MAHIRU FEARED THE MOONLIGHT BANDITS AND WANTED NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM, SHE WAS TOUCHED BY NOZOMU AND HIS GANG'S KINDNESS. SINCE SHE ALSO WANTED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HER ABILITIES AND DREAMS, MAHIRU DECIDED TO AID THE CREATURES IN THEIR ENDEAVORS.

AS SHE SLOWLY CAME TO UNDERSTAND THE BANDITS, ONLY MITSURU, BECAUSE OF HIS DEEP DISTRUST OF HUMANS, REFUSED TO ACCEPT MAHIRU AS A FRIEND. RATHER THAN FOE UNDAUNTED, MAHIRU WISHES TO SOMEHOW BEFRIEND MITSURU AND WORK WITH HIM BUT

HNNNN
MAHIRU!! BREAKFAST IS READY! YOU PLANNING ON—
—SLEEPING THE ENTIRE DAY? WAKE UP AND BUST A MOVE.
NNNN... NNNNN. TODAY'S THE DAY...
TODAY'S FINALLY MOVING DAY!!
BROOM
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Crescent Moon

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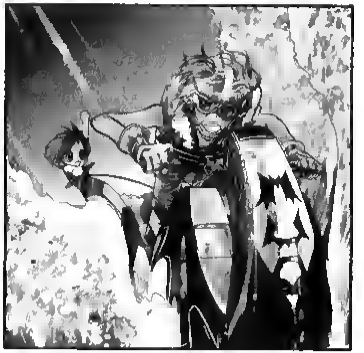
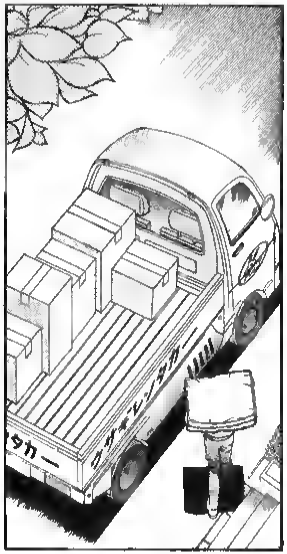
Waiting for the Moon
The Descendant of the Princess Meets the Demons
Part 3.

HOLY COW!! THERE'S MORE?!
YUP
JUST A BIT THOUGH
DEAL WITH IT
BUT I'M SO HUNGRY
PUT YOUR EARS AND TAIL AWAY YOU NEED TO STOP TRANSFORMING IN FRONT OF HUMANS LIKE THAT
SARAH!
AWW~COME ON, MIGOKA I'M SO-O-O-O HUNGRY

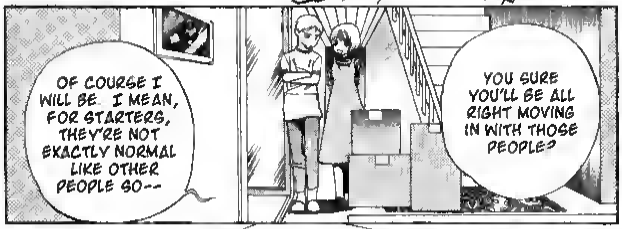


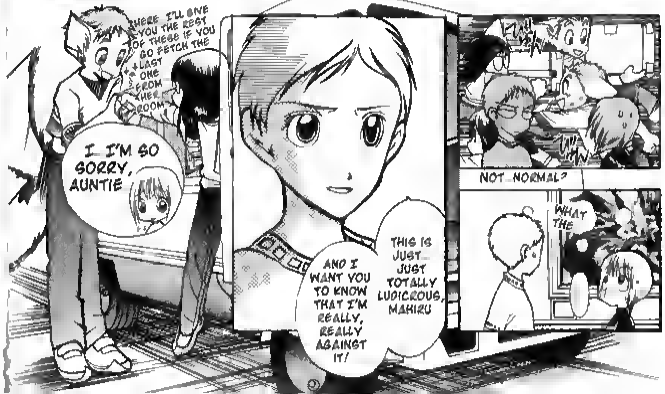


MUNCH

WAS THERE SOMETHING I DID OR DIDN'T DO? IT'S SO UNLIKE YOU NOT TO SAY WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, MAHIRU. I THOUGHT WE HAD A GOOD RELATIONSHIP
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND AND QUITE FRANKLY, I'M SHOCKED YOU'RE DOING THIS
IT'S NOT YOU I PROMISE NOT AT ALL
IT'S JUST SOMETHING THAT I HAVE TO DO AND I CAN'T TELL YOU WHY I'M SORRY SO SORRY

HEH HEH HEH. WAS THAT YOUR BOYFRIEND, AUNTIE? WHEN ARE YOU GUYS GONNA GET MARRIED HUH?
AWESOME ATTEMPT AT AVOIDING THE SUBJECT-- BUT LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU FOR A SECOND
YES, I'M REALLY SORRY
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY RIGHT NOW
UH OH, SHE'S COMING I'LL CALL YOU BACK LATER, OKAY?
SO SOON?


OF COURSE I WILL BE. I MEAN, FOR STARTERS, THEY'RE NOT EXACTLY NORMAL LIKE OTHER PEOPLE SO--
YOU SURE YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT MOVING IN WITH THOSE PEOPLE?


THERE. I'LL GIVE YOU THE REST OF THESE IF YOU GO FETCH THE LAST ONE FROM THERE, OOOH
I... I'M SO SORRY, AUNTIE
AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I'M REALLY, REALLY AGAINST IT!
THIS IS JUST... JUST TOTALLY LUDICROUS, MAHIRU
NOT NORMAL?
WHAT THE

HEY, MAHIRU!! YOU KNOW YOUR AUNT'S WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU, RIGHT?
YEAH, SHE EVEN CALLED MY HOUSE TO CHECK UP ON YOU!
REALLY?
THIS IS SO TOUGH! I HAD...
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN SHE'D BE WORRIED!
AFTER I LOST MY PARENTS IN A CAR ACCIDENT...
WELL, I HAD THE GREAT FORTUNE OF HAVING A WONDERFUL AUNT WHO TOOK CARE OF ME AND RAISED ME JUST LIKE I WAS HER OWN KID.
SHE ASKED ME TO MOVE IN WITH HER, AND WE LIVED TOGETHER JUST THE TWO OF US.

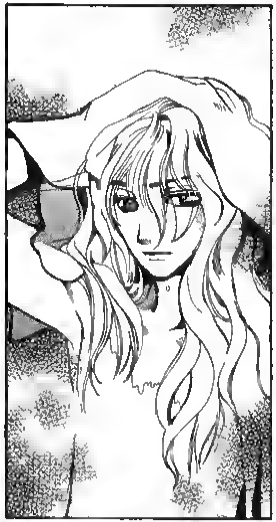
RABBIT RENTAL
I'M SORRY, AUNTIE! BUT I'LL BE ALL RIGHT! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, OKAY?!
BURN...
BURN...
BURN...
I'LL CALL WITH THE ADDRESS LATER, OKAY, AUNTIE?!

HEY, MITSURU!! WAIT UP!!
CAME TO PICK UP MAHIRU AS OFUKO REQUESTS?
PICK HER UP, TOO? HECK OFF WHATEVER!
WHY THE HECK DO I HAVE TO, DO THIS EVERY FRICKIN' DAY?!
PANT PANT
GOSH, HE WALKS SO DARN FAST
PANT PANT PANT
I WONDER HOW MUCH FARTHER HE'S GOING
PANT PANT
KYAAHH!!
MITSURU...
HUH?

I HAVE TO MAKE SURE I CALL HER EVERY DAY AND TELL HER HOW I'M DOING AND...
HUH? HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT THERE'S NOT EVEN A BREEZE
BUT WHERE IN THE WORLD DID IT COME FROM?
OOH, A PAPER PLANE?

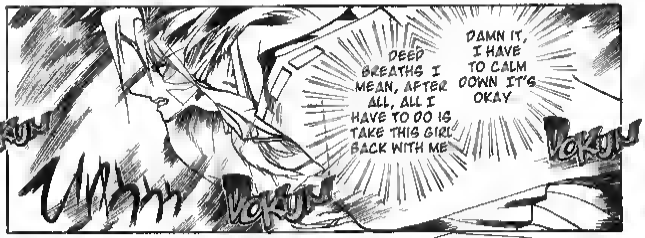
AAHH!
I'M SCARED, MITSURU! I MEAN, HONESTLY, I'M TOTALLY FREAKED! DO YOU THINK YOU COULD FLY A BIT LOWER? PLEASE?
WELL, IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK TO THAT WOMAN! GRRR. AND DON'T TALK TO ME!!
BUT I BETTER GET USED TO HIM. AND QUICK
AFTER ALL, I HAVE NO CHOICE IF I'M GONNA LIVE WITH THESE PEOPLE FROM NOW ON
RRGGHHH
URR----GHHH
THIS IS THE WORLD I SEE WITH MY EYES IN THE WATER
OH NO HE STILL SCARES THE HECK OUT OF ME
DAMN IT

!

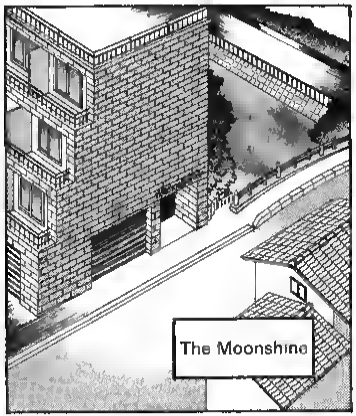


COUGH

COUGH
COUGH


VOKUN
DEEP BREATHS I MEAN, AFTER ALL, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TAKE THIS GIRL BACK WITH ME
DAMN IT, I HAVE TO CALM DOWN IT'S OKAY
VOKUN
VOKUN
VOKUN

WHAT IN THE WORLD AM I DOING HERE? WHY AM I DOING ALL THESE THINGS I'M TERRIFIED OF? AND AHH, MITSURU WHY ARE YOU BEING SO DOWNRIGHT NASTY?!
AHH, I'M SO SCARED OF MITSURU BUT I'M SCARED OF FLYING TOO

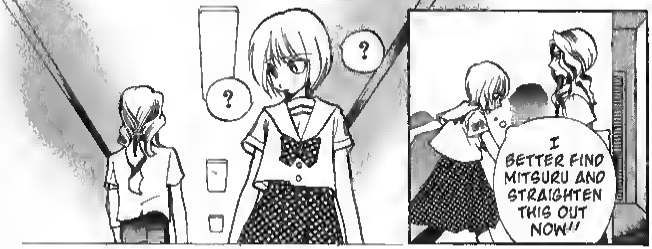

The Moonshine

.....
SO, HAVE YOU FOUND YOUR NEXT TARGET, YET?
OH YEAH? SO A TEARDROP OF THE MOON IS GOING TO BE THERE, HUH?
HOW NICE
YEG IN A FEW DAYS AT THE SHINJUKU MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, THEY'RE HOLDING A SPECIAL EXHIBITION ABOUT THE MOON. ONE OF THE EXHIBITION PIECES IS OUR TARGET.
ACTUALLY, WE WERE THINKING OF HOLDING A WELCOME PARTY FOR HER TODAY
GOOD, GOOD. SHE JUST MOVED IN WITH US A FEW DAYS AGO
OH, AND BY THE WAY, HOW'S OUR "DESCENDANT OF THE PRINCESS" DOING?

GRRRR, WHERE DID THAT MITSURU GO?!

YOU ARE SO TOTALLY MEAN! HOW COULD YOU KEEP DOING THAT WHEN I ASKED YOU TO STOP?!
I MEAN, SURE, I MIGHT HAVE BEEN MEAN TO YOU THAT ONE TIME, BUT STILL!!

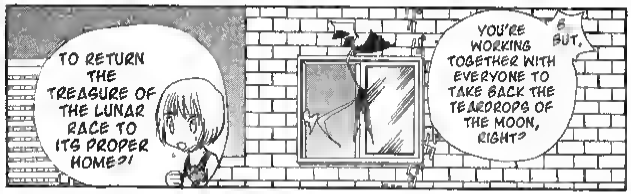
AND YOU THINK I'M HAPPY ABOUT HAVING TO CART YOU AROUND WITH ME? DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF
DAMMIT, IF ORORO HADN'T BEEN THE ONE TO ASK ME, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO WAY I'D EVEN CONTEMPLATE DEALING WITH YOU!
OH SHUT UP!


?
?
I BETTER FIND MITSURU AND STRAIGHTEN THIS OUT NOW!!

SIRE,
EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE I PROMISE WE MERELY PASSED EACH OTHER IN THE HALL QUITE HONESTLY I DIDN'T EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE HER
AND REALLY IT'S JUST EASIER FOR ME TO INTERACT WITH HER WHEN I'M A WOMAN
SO, HONESTLY, I'M DOUBTFUL SHE COULD SUSPECT THAT SOMEHOW WE'RE THE SAME PERSON...
SINCE THE PRINCESS ONLY KNOWS YOU AS A WOMAN... ...I'D KINDA HOPED WE COULD KEEP IT THAT WAY FOR A LITTLE LONGER AT LEAST, BUT...
HMM, I SEE
THE SHINJUKU MUSEUM OF MODERN ART I'LL BE HAPPY TO GO OVER THE DETAILS WITH YOU LATER
HERE'S THE DATA ON THE MUSEUM AS PROMISED
GO
. YOU COUNTED ME AS A WOMAN, HUH?
TAKE CARE OF THE PRINCESS FOR ME, KATSURA

PATAN
IT'S KATSURA, SIR
AHH, SO WE'VE BEEN REDUCED TO AN ALL MALE HOUSEHOLD NOW, HAVE WE?
I APOLOGIZE FOR THAT. I JUST RAN INTO THE PRINCESS OUTSIDE
HOW UMM, BE, VERY DIFFERENT OF YOU OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN SINCE YOU'VE BEEN HERE
...HOW THE MAJORITY OF THE LUNAR RACE DESPISES HER
HA! A WELCOME PARTY? HA HA HA HA
スゥ
CAW CAW
CAW CAW

...OR ANY OF THEM. SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT I DON'T CONSIDER ANY OF YOU GUYS A "FRIEND."
AND AS FOR YOU
I'M SORRY--
THE ONLY REASON I'M HERE IS TO FOLLOW ORORO'S ORDERS AND RECLAIM THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON.


TO RETURN THE TREASURE OF THE LUNAR RACE TO ITS PROPER HOME?!
YOU'RE WORKING TOGETHER WITH EVERYONE TO TAKE BACK THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON, RIGHT?
BUT,

AND, BY THE WAY, DON'T EVER COME ANY CLOSER TO ME THAN THAT. IN FACT, STAY THE HELL AWAY IF YOU CAN HELP IT--THAT'S THE ONLY RULE YOU'LL NEED TO REMEMBER TO MAKE YOUR STAY WITH US HERE PLEASANT

THE ONLY THING I CARE ABOUT IS BECOMING STRONGER.
I'M TOLD THAT BRINGING THAT DAMN ARTIFACT BACK WILL AWARD ME WITH SUCH POWER...SUCH STRENGTH...
MEANWHILE YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A TOOL. A MERE TOOL FOR ME TO OBTAIN WHAT I WANT.

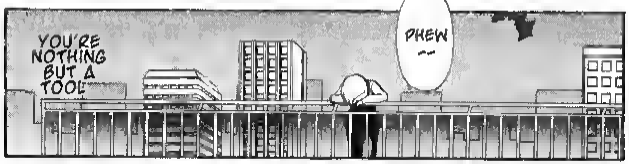
HAVE YOU

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER
IT'S WRITTEN ON YOUR FACE, YOU KNOW.
YOU'RE THINKING, "I DON'T REALLY WANT TO BE HERE," AND "HOW CAN I POSSIBLY TRUST A GROUP OF TOTAL STRANGERS?" AM I WRONG?

I WAS NEVER GIVEN THAT CHOICE

H...HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?

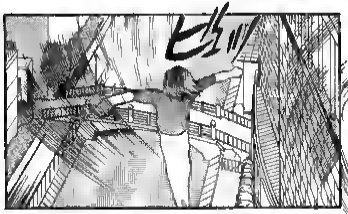
BUT THEN AGAIN, I JUST LEFT MY ONE AND ONLY FAMILY MEMBER TO BE HERE, SO
I MEAN, SURE, I'M A LITTLE UNCOM-FORTABLE


YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A TOOL.
PHEW ~~

I...I'M JUST A TOOL.
OKHH HOW COULD HE SAY THAT TO ME?
MAHIRU-CHAN?

WAS THAT YOU WHO CALLED MY NAME JUST NOW, BATTY OL' ?
OH, WELL, HI THERE, NOZOMU'S BAT
MAHIRU!
NOPE, IT'S JUST GOOD OL' ME

I WON'T LET YOU COME ANY CLOSER TO ME.
MITSURU!!



PHEW

KYAAHHHH!!
MITSURU? MITSURU?!

AWWW HE'S SO CUTE
CHIRP!!
WELL OKAY
THANK YOU SO MUCH, NOZOMU
NO PROBLEM
YEAH, I SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP
Z
Z
KIE KIE

IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE MITSURU'S GONE AND SAID SOMETHING STUPID TO YOU AGAIN. BUT DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT IT, OKAY?
JUST GET SOME SLEEP AND FORGET ABOUT IT. TAKE IT EASY, WILL YA?
...

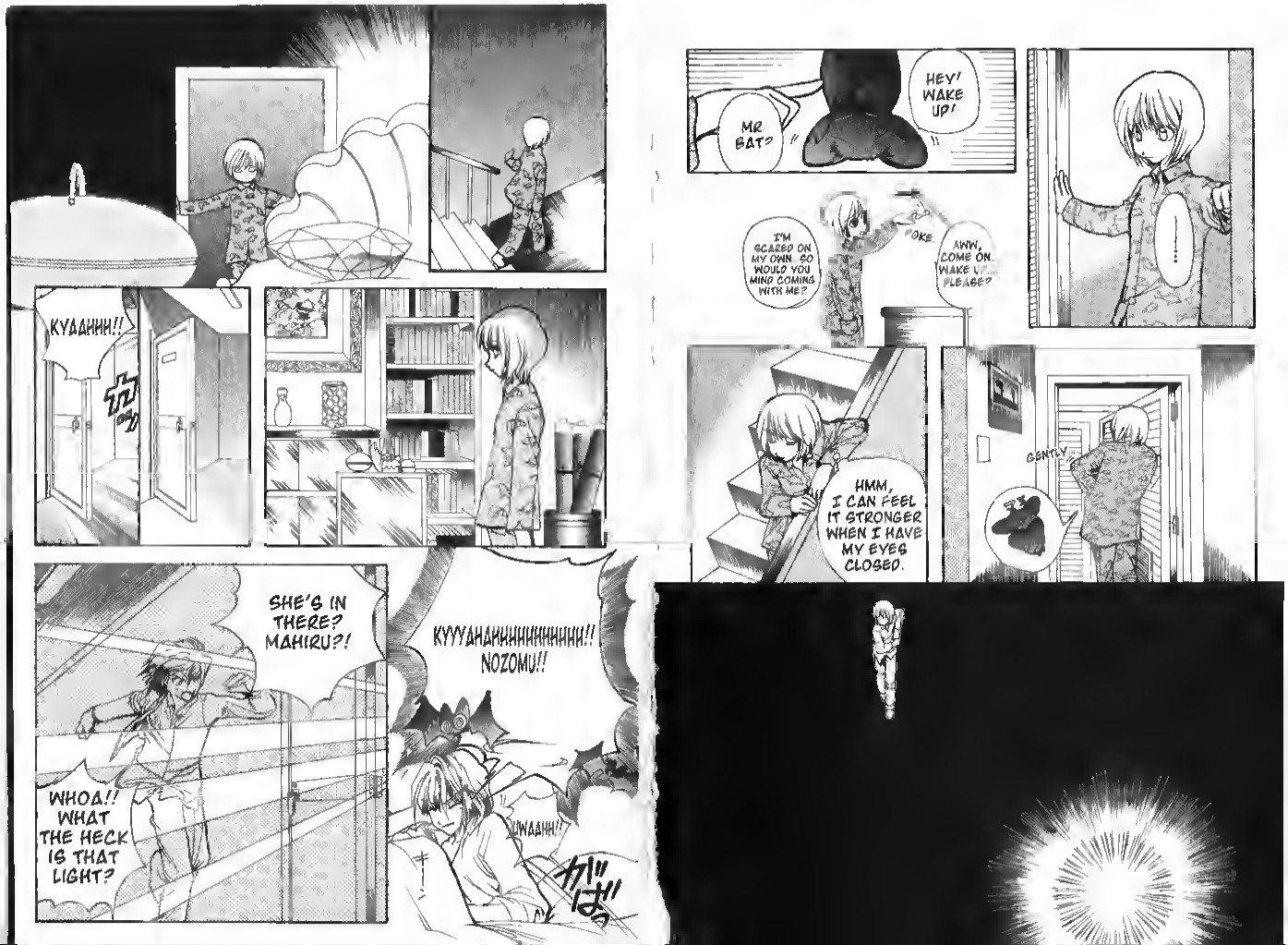
AND, BY THE WAY, THIS LITTLE GUY'S FOR YOU TO KEEP.
IF YOU EVER NEED ANYTHING, GO RIGHT AHEAD AND YELL FOR ME THROUGH HIM.
AND NO MATTER WHERE I AM I'LL COME FLYING TO YOU UNDERSTOOD?

YOU TRANSFORMED INTO...INTO A BAT?
NOPE, NOPE.

HOT
OKAY, HERE COMES THE OLDER ONE. GAZUD--A CASSIS!
HOPEFULLY THIS LITTLE GUY WILL DO
IT'S A BIT BUSY HERE SO I CAN'T COME SEE YOU MYSELF BUT...

NNNN
WHEW
IT WAS JUST A DREAM
HUH? WHAT IS IT? SOMETHING SHINING ?
THERE'S NO ONE IN THE HALLWAY
W WHAT IS THIS SHINING FROM DEEP INSIDE ALL THE WAY TO THE BACK OF MY EYES...
WHY------ WH WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?

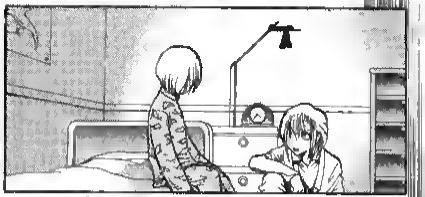
HAH?
KYAAAHHHH!!
BLOOD
PAT
PAT


KYAAHH!!
SHE'S IN THERE? MAHIRU?!
WHOA!! WHAT THE HECK IS THAT LIGHT?
KYYYAHAHHHHHHHHHH!! NOZOMU!!
UWAAHH!!
MR BAT?
HEY! WAKE UP!
I'M SCARED ON MY OWN. SO WOULD YOU MIND COMING WITH ME?
OKE
AWW, COME ON WAKE UP... PLEASE?
HMM, I CAN FEEL IT STRONGER WHEN I HAVE MY EYES CLOSED.
GENTLY

SLEEPIN' ON DA JOB WEREN'T YA, YOU DOLT!!

WHAT THE-OH MY! SHE-SHE'S GLOWING?!

SO YOU COULD SLEEP AT NIGHT
WELL, YEAH YOU DID TEACH ME THAT WAY

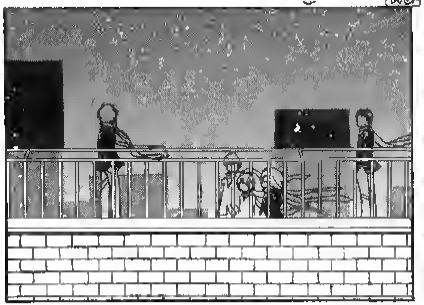


I SEE SO THE LIGHT FROM THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON WAS CALLING YOU...?
IT KEPT GETTING BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER, STRONGER AND STRONGER WITHIN I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO CLOSE MY EYES ANYMORE TO SEE OR FEEL IT NOW

MAHIRU!!
NOZOMU!
NOZOMU!!
MY BODY!!
WHA-?!

DON'T WORRY, SWEETIE! NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I'LL ALWAYS BE ON YOUR SIDE!
'KAY?
THAT'S A GOOD GIRL
OKAY
LOOK
IT'S LATE, MAHIRU WHY DON'T YOU TRY AND GET SOME MORE REST ♥
I'LL HEAD BACK TO MY ROOM NOW, TOO

AN UNFINISHED LOVE
JUST KIDDING!!



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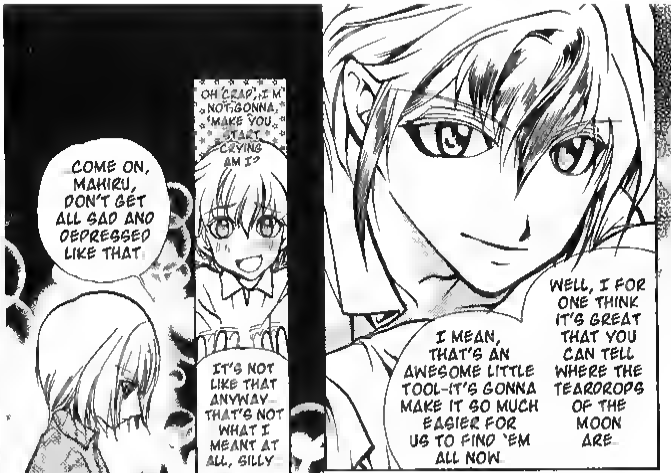
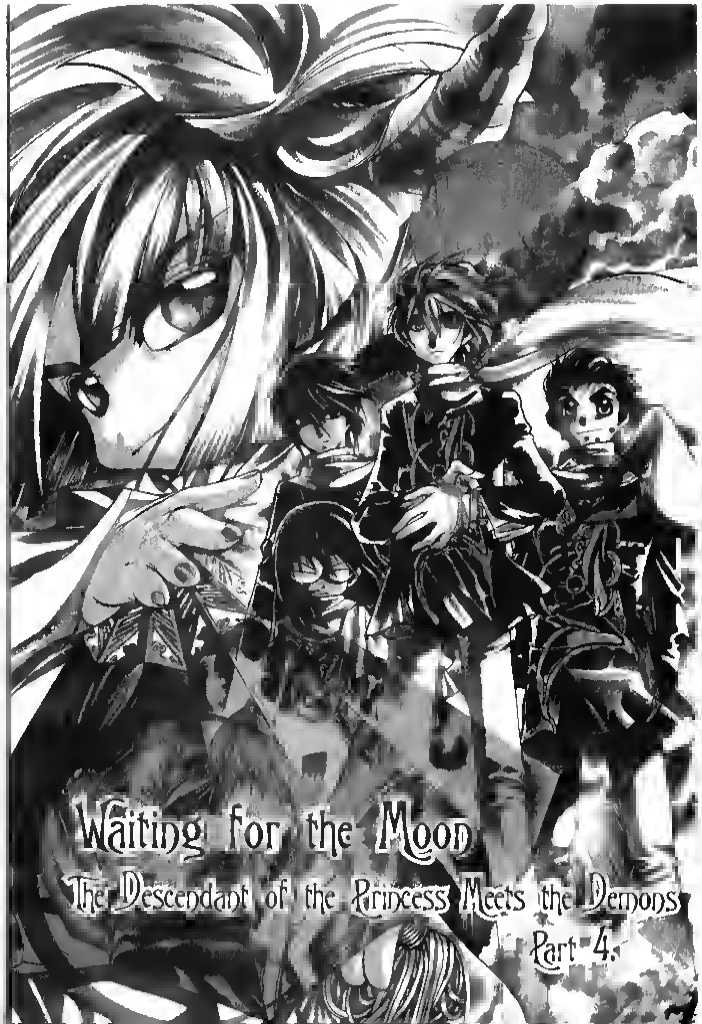
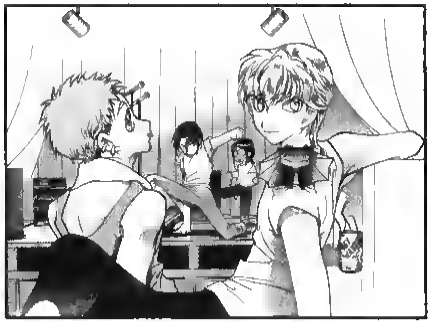

COME ON, MAHIRU, DON'T GET ALL SAD AND DEPRESSED LIKE THAT
OH CRAP, I'M NOT GONNA MAKE YOU START CRYING AM I?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT ANYWAY— THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT AT ALL, SILLY
WELL, I FOR ONE THINK IT'S GREAT THAT YOU CAN TELL WHERE THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON ARE
I MEAN, THAT'S AN AWESOME LITTLE TOOL—IT'S GONNA MAKE IT SO MUCH EASIER FOR US TO FIND 'EM ALL NOW

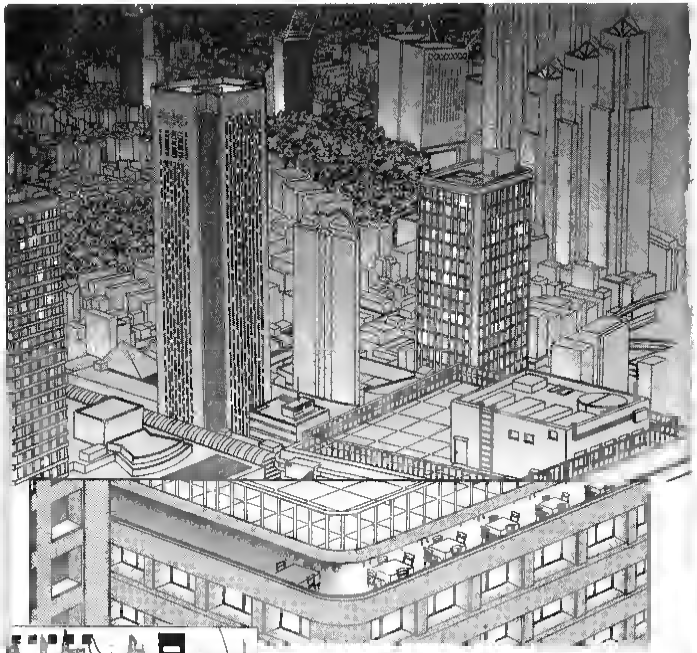
LOOK, I'M A TOOL TOO, YOU KNOW?
BESIDES, IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, EVERYONE IN THIS WORLD USES THEIR OWN ABILITIES OR SOMEONE ELSE'S, ALONG WITH THEIR KNOWLEDGE, THEIR, WELL WHATEVER, TO BETTER THEIR OWN LIVES. IN THE END, EVERYONE IS A TOOL AND EVERYONE USES TOOLS AS WELL THAT'S NOT A BAD THING
NOZOMU! YOU, YOU'RE JUST LIKE MITSURU. ACTING LIKE I'M SOME KIND OF ROBOT
AM I JUST A DOLL WITHOUT A SOUL? A PIECE OF EQUIPMENT TO YOU?

Shinjuku Museum of Modern Art.
We shall come to claim the Teardrop of the Moon.
...when the light of the moon...
...shines full.

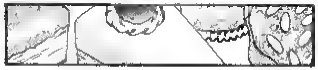
SOOO SLEEPY
Dion.


Waiting for the Moon
The Descendant of the Princess Meets the Demons
Part 4.

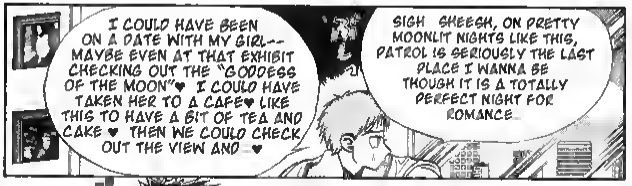




Shinjuku Museum of Modern Art
THE Goddess of the Moon exhibition unveiled for the first time tonight!!
Sculptor Kenta Yano

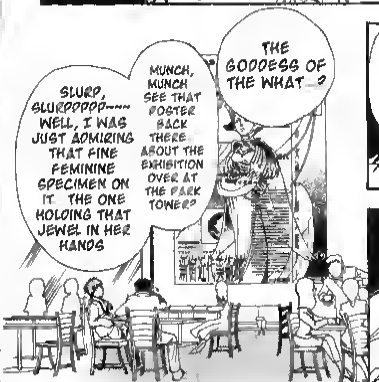


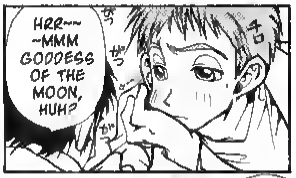
GEEZ, KUSAKABE?! AREN'T YOU DONE EATING YET?!
HIGHLIGHTING HIS FINAL AND MOST MASTERFUL WORK SCULPTED FROM A RARE NATURAL STONE " I GUESS TONIGHT'S THE PREMIERE OF HIS WORK, "GODDESS OF THE MOON," TOO, HUH ?
"ON THE 9TH FLOOR OF THE PARK TOWERS, THE SHINJUKU MUSEUM OF MODERN ART PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY THE MASTER SCULPTOR KENTA YANO "
HMM ITS CREATOR DIED A PRE-MATURE DEATH, HUH? HMMM


I COULD HAVE BEEN ON A DATE WITH MY GIRL-- MAYBE EVEN AT THAT EXHIBIT CHECKING OUT THE "GODDESS OF THE MOON"♥ I COULD HAVE TAKEN HER TO A CAFE♥ LIKE THIS TO HAVE A BIT OF TEA AND CAKE ♥ THEN WE COULD CHECK OUT THE VIEW AND ♥
SIGH SHEESH, ON PRETTY MOONLIT NIGHTS LIKE THIS, PATROL IS SERIOUSLY THE LAST PLACE I WANNA BE THOUGH IT IS A TOTALLY PERFECT NIGHT FOR ROMANCE

THAT'S IT THAT'S IT!!
OWWW!! WHAT'S IT?!
ばき

WOW, EVERYONE HERE SURE CAN EAT
ALL YOU CAN EAT FOR 2000 YEN
じろ
じろ
じろ
MMM
MMM


SLURP, SLURPPPP~~~~ WELL, I WAS JUST ADMIRING THAT FINE FEMININE SPECIMEN ON IT THE ONE HOLDING THAT JEWEL IN HER HANDS
MUNCH, MUNCH SEE THAT POSTER BACK THERE ABOUT THE EXHIBITION OVER AT THE PARK TOWER?
THE GODDESS OF THE WHAT ?


HRR~~ ~MMM GODDESS OF THE MOON, HUH?

SAY ARE YOU ALMOST DONE, SIR?
WE'RE STILL ON DUTY YOU KNOW
COPS

—BUT I SUPPOSE THEY HAVE TO BE, REALLY— BECAUSE IN A FEW MOMENTS WE'LL BE
AND EVERYONE'S TOTALLY SERIOUS ABOUT GOING THROUGH WITH IT
TH— THIS THIS REALLY EVERYONE'S IS IT DISCUSSING THE JOB
EH?
YOU'RE DRENCHED IN SWEAT, GIRL IS THE TEMPERATURE CONTROL DEVICE ON YOUR OUTFIT BROKEN?
—— —— M—— ——
MAHIRU
MAHIRU-CHAN?
BAGUM!
"WE"?

THE "GODDESS OF THE MOON"...
—ON THE NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON
MUNCH~ MUNCH~

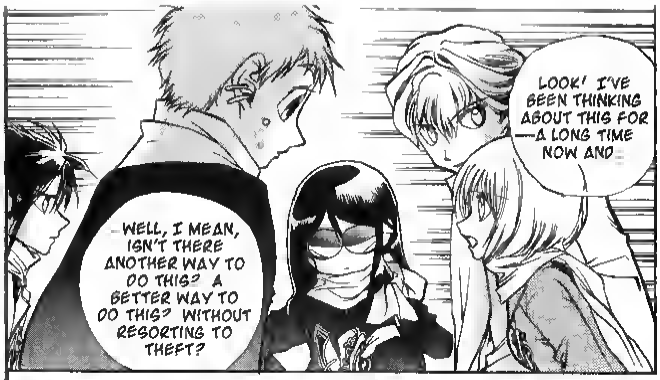
IT...IT'S NOTHING

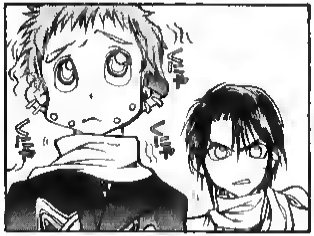
?
GLARE

.....

HOW CAN YOU BE SO MEAN? IT WASN'T ON PURPOSE!!
IT WAS TOO ON PURPOSE!!
L...

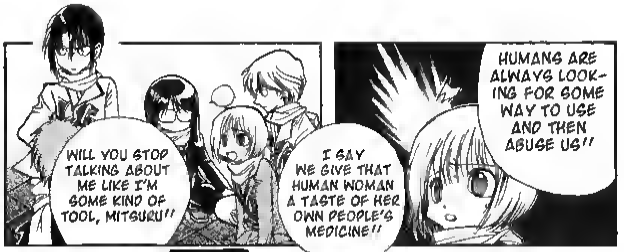
OTHERWISE, STOP MAKING SUCH DAMN PATHETIC FACES LIKE THAT!!
LOOK, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS, THEN GO THE HELL HOME!
MITSURU!

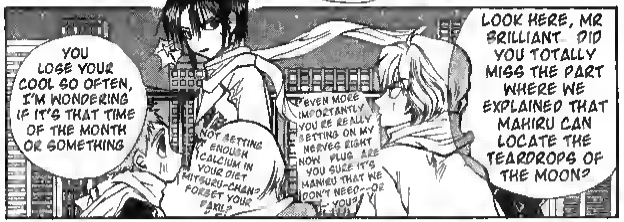

LOOK! I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS FOR A LONG TIME NOW AND
WELL, I MEAN, ISN'T THERE ANOTHER WAY TO DO THIS? A BETTER WAY TO DO THIS? WITHOUT RESORTING TO THEFT?



WHY THE HELL SHOULD WE HAVE TO SPEND MONEY TO TAKE BACK SOMETHING THAT'S RIGHTFULLY OURS IN THE FIRST PLACE?!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! IT'S YOU DAMNED HUMANS THAT STARTED THE STEALING!!
DON'T BE SHIELDED AGAINST SHEDDAN NEED. NOT MANS AGEMENT MUCH?
BESIDES, WE'VE GOT A FULL MOON TODAY. WE DON'T NEED THAT STUPID GIRL TO BEGIN WITH!

MITSURU!!


WILL YOU STOP TALKING ABOUT ME LIKE I'M SOME KIND OF TOOL, MITSURU!!
I SAY WE GIVE THAT HUMAN WOMAN A TASTE OF HER OWN PEOPLE'S MEDICINE!!
HUMANS ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR SOME WAY TO USE AND THEN ABUSE US!!


YOU LOSE YOUR COOL SO OFTEN, I'M WONDERING IF IT'S THAT TIME OF THE MONTH OR SOMETHING
NOT GETTING ENOUGH CALCIUM IN YOUR DIET, MITSURU-CHAN? FORGET YOUR PAXIL?
EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY YOU'RE REALLY GETTING ON MY NERVES RIGHT NOW. PLUG ARE YOU SURE IT'S MAHIRU THAT WE DON'T NEED--OR YOU?
LOOK HERE, MR BRILLIANT. DID YOU TOTALLY MISS THE PART WHERE WE EXPLAINED THAT MAHIRU CAN LOCATE THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON?

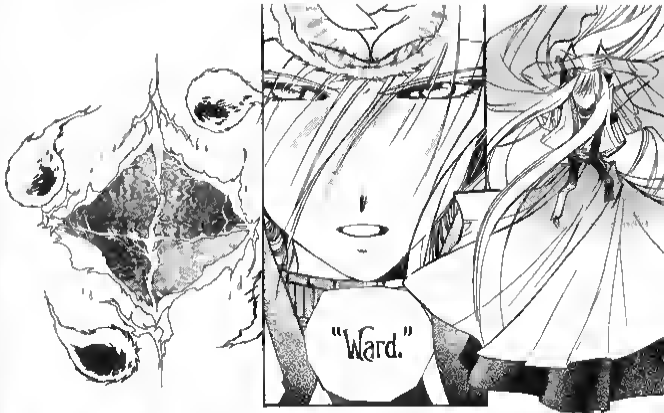
KEEP IN MIND THAT SHOULD YOU WISH OR ATTEMPT ANY HARM ON THE PRINCESS, YOU'LL HAVE TO ANSWER TO ME
MITSURU--WHAT YOU JUST SAID--WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE SOME KIND OF CHALLENGE TO ME?

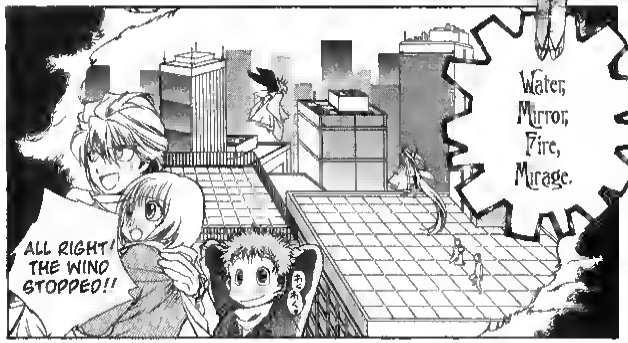
DOH!! HE'S TAKEN HIS POWER-CHARM OUT!! HE'S PLANNING ON TRANSFORMING!!
DAMN IT, MITSURU!! YOU'RE A HUNDRED YEARS SHY OF BEING ABLE TO STAND UP TO MISOKA, YOU FOOL!!
A-A POWER-CHARM?

WAAAAOOHOHH!!
FLASH RUMBLE
BOMBLE
AAHHHHGHHHHH!!
DON

KYAAHHHH!!
MAHIRU!!
GRAB
HHHHH... AHHH!!
PHEW.

D..DAMN IT
THANKS FOR LENDING ME YOUR POWER, MITSURU. THIS TRICK WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT IT. NOW, WHILE YOU'RE STUCK, ALLOW ME TO ASK YOU THIS.
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE CRUSHED BY YOUR OWN WINDS, HMM? SPEAK UP!


"Ward."

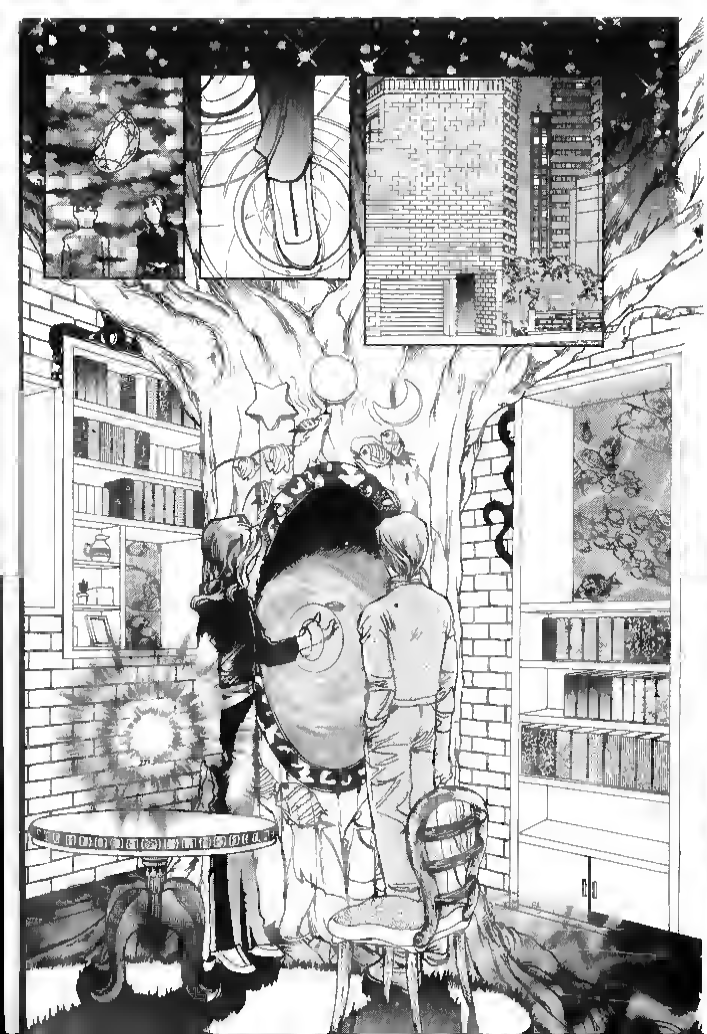

Water, Mirror, Fire, Mirage.
ALL RIGHT! THE WIND STOPPED!!

DAMN YOU, MISOKA!!

MITSURU— WHY CAN'T YOU GET IT?
KEEP IT UP AND WE'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LET YOU GO.
HE'S FAINTED
HE...HE'S HURT
YOU OKAY, MAHIRU?
MITSURU
WHADDYA THINK THOSE TWO ARE TALKING ABOUT?
HMM—

WWAAHHHHHH!!
BA
UWWAHH!!
BA BA BA BA BA
BA BA
THE PROBLEM IS, WHATEVER YOU PUT IN IS REFLECTED BY THAT BLANKET AND, ULTIMATELY, IS SENT STRAIGHT BACK TO YOU IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE TRAPPING YOURSELF WITH YOUR OWN POWER, MITSURU
HATE ME ALL YOU WISH, BUT, REALLY, I HAVEN'T DONE MUCH MITSURU ALL I DID WAS PLACE A SIMPLE BLANKET OF MY FLAMES AROUND YOUR WINGS
ズン
SU...

I GET THAT HUMANS STOLE THE TEARDROPS FIRST BUT STEALING, NO MATTER HOW JUSTIFIED, IS ONLY GOING TO MAKE YOU MORE AND MORE HATED BY THE HUMANS
I... I CAN'T HANDLE THIS... ALL THIS HURTING... ALL THIS HATING!!
YOU'RE PALE AS A GHOST, MAHIRU. THAT FALL BACK THERE MUST HAVE REALLY SCARED YOU, HUH?
INTERESTED THERE
INTERESTED HERE
CAN'T DECIDE ON WHICH STORY TO FOLLOW
LET ME MAKE THIS EASY ON YOU. I'LL LEAVE--I'M DONE WITH ALL OF THIS. WITH ALL OF YOU.
AS FOR THIS TEARDROP OF THE MOON, I THINK I'LL BE TAKING THAT.
AND I SWEAR I'LL BECOME STRONGER THAN ANY OF YOU!!
MAHIRU!!
TAP
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
AH, MISOKA... IT'S MAHIRU SHE...
LOOK HERE, MAHIRU. TO PUT IT SIMPLY, IT'S LIKE THIS. WHEN NATURE GETS POLLUTED, WE CAN'T LIVE
. FOR US, THE ONLY THING WE CAN LOOK FORWARD TO WITHOUT THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON IS DEATH



BECAUSE YOU'RE OUR PRINCESS, MAHIRU.
OKAY BUT BUT WHAT DOES THAT REALLY HAVE TO DO WITH ME? WHY SHOULD I CARE?
IT'S BELIEVED THAT THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON HAVE THE POWER TO STRENGTHEN THE LIFE FORCE OF OUR PEOPLE...
...WHICH IS WHY WE WERE SENT HERE TO RETURN IT TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE, OUR HOME, THE MOON PALACE.
SO WHADDYA SAY? WILL YOU HELP US OUT?
WE PROMISE TO PROTECT YOU, MAHIRU. YOU DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT--
R... REALLY?
OF COURSE! WE PROMISE! SWEAR ON THE MOON!
SEE? SEE?! JUST LIKE WE SAID! NOW WE'RE IN KIND OF A HURRY RIGHT NOW, BUT WE PROMISE WE'LL MAKE IT UP TO WHOM EVER WE OFFENDED, LATER! CROSS OUR HEARTS!!

THINGS MAY SEEM BAD, BUT I DON'T THINK THE SITUATION IS TOTALLY NEGATIVE
RIGHT NOW, MITSURU IS LEARNING AND DISCOVERING QUITE A BIT ABOUT HIMSELF AND THE WORLD THROUGH HIS ENCOUNTERS WITH THE PRINCESS
I CAN'T HELP WORRYING ABOUT MITSURU'S OBSTINACY ENDANGERING OUR MISSION HERE
I HOPE THAT ALL GOES WELL TOO, SIRE... BUT...
AS THE WINDS HEAT UP MORE AND MORE, LIKEWISE DO THEIR CURRENTS CHURN MORE AND MORE VIOLENTLY...
IN LIFE, SOONER OR LATER, EVERYONE HAS THEIR SHARE OF TIMES OF TRIALS AND TROUBLES FOR THE TIME BEING, THE FORECAST MAY BE DOTTED WITH STORMS. WELL, WE MIGHT EVEN HAVE TORNADOES ON THE WAY...
HOW CAN WE AFFORD TO TRUST THE RECLAMATION OF THE ONLY THING THAT CAN SAVE US TO SUCH CHILDREN?
WE ARE A DYING PEOPLE, SIRE
THEN WHY ENTRUST OUR FUTURE TO THOSE YOUTHS?

WITH ALL MY HEART, I BELIEVE IT WILL BE THE LIGHT OF THESE CHILDREN THAT WILL ILLUMINATE THE FUTURE OF THIS WORLD ONE DAY...
IT'S NOT OUR WORLD, KATSURA IT'S THEIRS EVENTUALLY, THEY'LL INHERIT THIS EARTH THEREFORE, I FIND IT ONLY FAIR TO ENTRUST THEM WITH SUCH A DELICATE MISSION
AND OF THE "PEOPLE OF THE MOON" AS WELL

FLUORESCENT OXYGEN IS ON STANDBY, SIR.
VAPOR LEVEL SET AT FIFTY-FIVE DEGREES
WHA-!! YOU MEAN THEY REALLY CAME?!
SLEEPING GAS?
SURE SEEMS THAT WAY— THOSE ARE DEFINITELY ELECTRICAL DISCHARGES AROUND HIM
WELL I'LL BE WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT? CAN THAT THING MAKE ITS OWN ELECTRICITY?
LOOKS LIKE IT'S JUST THIS ONE
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE SCREEN? WHY'S IT ALL BLURRY?
THERE MAY BE A PROBLEM WITH THE AIR CONDITIONING.
THE LEVEL OF HUMIDITY IN THE AIR JUST SKY-ROCKETED, SIR.

GEEZ... THAT S.O.B. WALKED RIGHT THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR.
ガタン
W...WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!
WHAAAH!!
INSPECTOR! I THINK HE'S ONE OF THOSE BANDITS?
SHHHH!! QUIET!
BAM!!
WWAAHHH-.....!!
CAUTION
HE'S CLIMBING UP THE STAIRS MUST BE HEADED TO THE MUSEUM.
YES SIR
SHEESH, MEANIE, THIS IS THE SECOND TIME YOU'VE WHAPPED ME TODAY
CAN YOU PREPARE FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE SLEEPING GAS?

THE CURTAIN'S MOVING—BUT THERE'S NO WIND. IT'S A CLOSED BUILDING
SHH QUIET DOWN
HAAHHHHHHHHHH!!

THE AREA THE MONSTER JUST PASSED THROUGH ON THE MONITOR IS SHOWING UP AS 28 DEGREES CELSIUS
—BUT THE AREAS THE MONSTER PASSED THROUGH FIVE MINUTES AGO ARE SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER—JUST 21 DEGREES CELSIUS, SIR!
AH, YUSUKE
KUSAKABE, WHAT'S THE TEMPERATURE READING IN THAT ROOM?
SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THE IMAGE ISN'T BLURRED IT'S THE CAMERA LENS THAT'S FOGGED-UP?
DON'T ASK ME HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW?
SHH HE'S HERE STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE MUSEUM

IT'S JUST A MANNEQUIN!! A DECOY?!
WHAT?!
NOW I'LL BE STRONGER THAN ANY OF THEM!
DO IT!
DEPLOYING SLEEPING GAS, SIR
COME ON THIS HAG GOT TO WORK! IT'S ENOUGH TO PUT A DAMN ELEPHANT TO SLEEP!
WOAH!
THE MONSTER'S HEART RATE IS DROPPING.
ITS RESPIRATION HAS CEASED, SIR.
Waiting for the Moon Part 4 - The End
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT, KUSAKABE? HOLY CRAP HE JUST BROKE THROUGH A SOLID CHITIN PANEL!!
I SAID, QUIET IN THE PEANUT GALLERY DAMN IT!
WE'VE LOCKED THE ROOM DOWN!
THE SLEEPING GAS IS READY FOR DEPLOYMENT, SIR
GRRR---- WOULD YOU CHECK OUT THAT TOTALLY ARROGANT LOOK ON HIS FACE?
WHAT THE HELL IS HE TRYING TO SAY? THAT THOSE PANELS AIN'T NOTHING TO HIM?
KEEP OUT

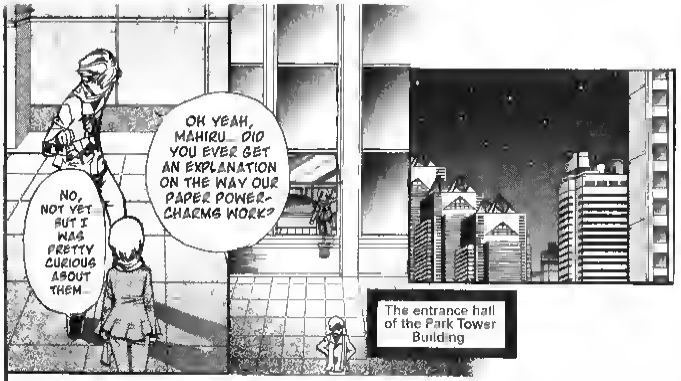
Waiting for the Moon

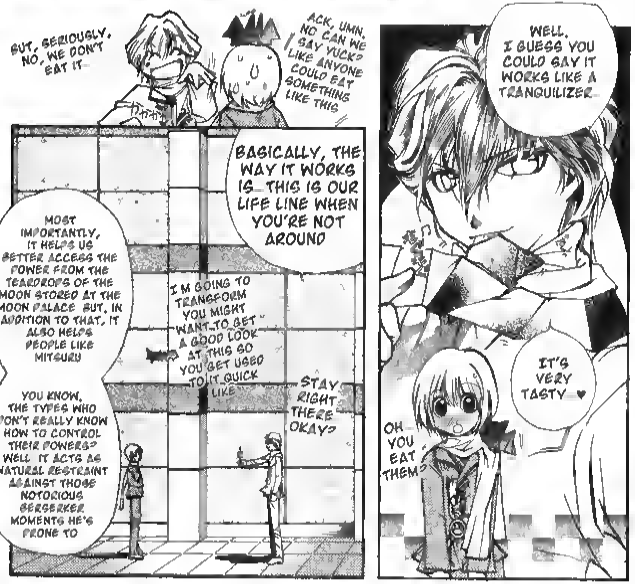
The Descendant of the Princess Meets the Demons

Part 5.

I-IT'S HEART— IT'S HEART HAS STOPPED BEATING
!!
..I...IS IT DEAD?
IT'S HEART STOPPED?
SIR, WE'RE CURRENTLY FILTERING IN WATER VAPOR TO CLEANSE THE AIR OF IMPURITIES. ONCE THAT PROCESS IS COMPLETE, IT'LL BE SAFE FOR US TO GO IN AND RETRIEVE THE BODY
—HOWEVER, ANY ONE OR THING SUBJECTED TO IT WILL SUFFER ACUTE ASPHYXIATION, ENTERING A STATE OF TEMPORARY "DEATH."
ABOUT THE BAG WE USED ON HIM SIR— THE CONCENTRATION SHOULDN'T BE DEADLY
SORRY, GEEZ!!
WHY DO YOU KEEP ASKING ME THESE THINGS?! HOW THE HELL WOULD I KNOW?

!!
OH MY GOD...NO— KUSAKABE!!
FOR MITSURU A JOB LIKE THAT SHOULD ONLY TAKE ABOUT FIVE MINUTES-- TOPS
YEP, SOME-THING'S DEFINITELY NOT RIGHT
I'M GETTING A REALLY BAD VIBE ABOUT THIS, GUYS—

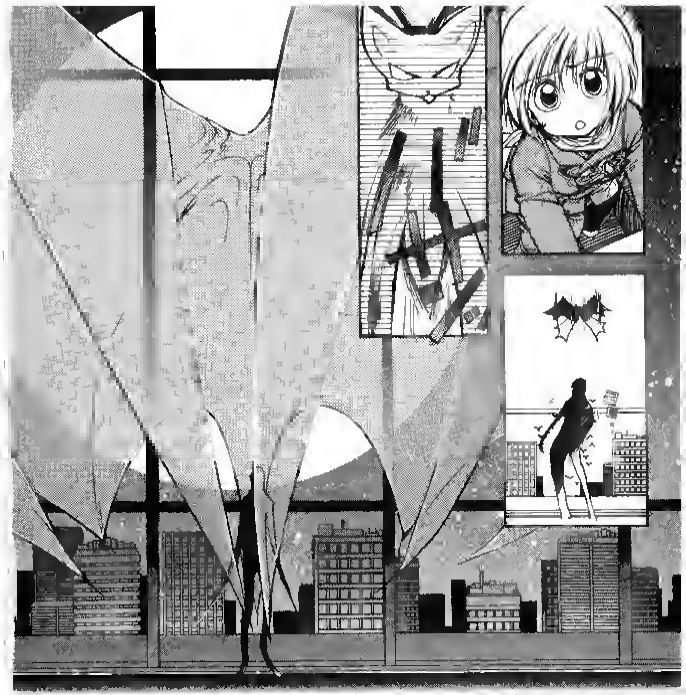

NO, NOT YET BUT I WAS PRETTY CURIOUS ABOUT THEM...
OH YEAH, MAHIRU... DID YOU EVER GET AN EXPLANATION ON THE WAY OUR PAPER POWER-CHARMS WORK?
The entrance hall of the Park Tower Building

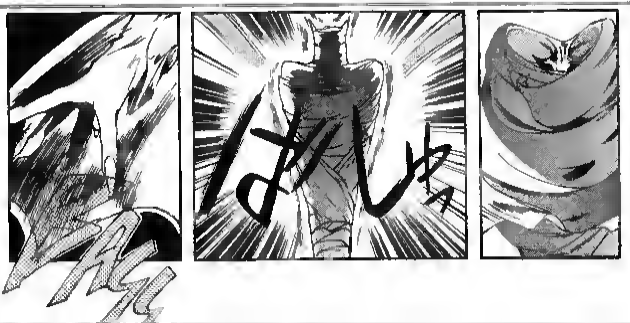

BUT, SERIOUSLY, NO, WE DON'T EAT IT...
ACK, UMM, NO CAN WE SAY YUCK? LIKE ANYONE COULD EAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS
BASICALLY, THE WAY IT WORKS IS... THIS IS OUR LIFE LINE WHEN YOU'RE NOT AROUND
MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT HELPS US BETTER ACCESS THE POWER FROM THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON STORED AT THE MOON PALACE. BUT, IN ADDITION TO THAT, IT ALSO HELPS PEOPLE LIKE MITSURU
I'M GOING TO TRANSFORM YOU MIGHT WANT TO GET A GOOD LOOK AT THIS SO YOU GET USED TO IT QUICK LIKE
STAY RIGHT THERE, OKAY?
YOU KNOW, THE TYPES WHO DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO CONTROL THEIR POWERS? WELL IT ACTS AS NATURAL RESTRAINT AGAINST THOSE NOTORIOUS BERSERKER MOMENTS HE'S PRONE TO
WELL, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY IT WORKS LIKE A TRANQUILIZER...
IT'S VERY TASTY ♥
OH, YOU EAT THEM?

I... IF... YOU REALLY MEANT WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE ABOUT FOLLOWING THROUGH WITH REPARATIONS THEN... THEN I'LL HELP YOU
SO WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?
MITSURU'S YOUR FRIEND, RIGHT?
EVERYBODY IS SO WIRED. THE TENSION'S SO THICK YOU CAN FEEL IT

REALLY? YOU'LL REALLY, REALLY HELP US, MAHIRU?
SERIOUSLY?
NOD
NOD
YOU GET CROSS MY HEART
YEAH... BUT LIKE I SAID... YOU REALLY, REALLY HAVE TO KEEP YOUR PROMISE ABOUT FOLLOWING THROUGH WITH WHOEVER WE'RE FIGHTING FOR THIS TEARDROP FROM... OKAY?

N
NOZOMU'S GONE?
SQUEEK
WHOP
WHO WHAPPP
!!
!!

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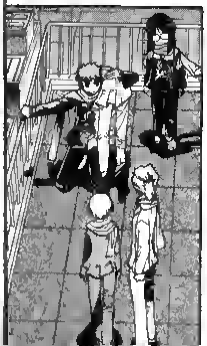
HEY!! ARE YOU HUMANS JUST LIKE THAT OTHER KID TOO?
WHAT'S UP WITH THE MONITOR?!
UGH.
MY THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR STANDING IN FOR MITSURU
WAAHH!!
MISOKA!! MITSURU'S DEAD!!
I KNOW AND IF WE DON'T WATCH IT, WE WILL BE TOO!! LET'S GO!!

MUST BE THE REST OF 'EM
INTRUDER DETECTED ON THE ROOF.
SHEESH HE'S JUST A BOY!
IT...IT'S A HUMAN?
KUGAKABE!! WE'VE SIGHTED THE FIRST CREATURE, SIR!! IT'S THE "DOG"!!
SO, WE MEET AGAIN, EH, PUPPY?
AHH, YOUHEI!! THAT USELESS DOLT!!
I-INSPEC-TOR...T-TAKE A LOOK AT THE MONITOR, SI-!!
GULP
WHAT'S THE MATTER YOUHEI? WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE?
YOUHEI!! ??.....

THE GODDESS OF THE MOON
WILL BE COMING HOME TO HER RIGHTFUL PLACE WITH US THE PEOPLE OF THE MOON"

THAT DAMN THING CAN TALK LIKE A HUMAN?!



DAMN IT!! WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?!

MOVE IT, MOVE IT!! THE MONSTERS ARE AFTER THE GODDESS STATUE ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR!
OVER HERE, MAHIRU LET'S GET OUT OF HERE
DAMN THEY'RE HERE ALREADY?
IS THAT THE GODDESS OF THE...?!
IT'S SO BRIGHT!!
WWAAHHH!! WHAT THE HECK IS THAT LIGHT?

NO WAY- IT'S THE GODDESS OF THE MOON— OR?? DAMN IT! GET BACK HERE, YOU GOO DAMNED FREAKS!!

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER TO ME!!
H..HOW IS IT THAT ALL OF YOU CAN STAY SO CALM? AREN'T YOU SAD?!
HE CAN'T BE DEAD!! HE JUST CAN'T BE!! MITSURU...IT'S GOT TO BE SOME KIND OF MISTAKE!!
LET'S HEAD BACK HOME FOR NOW WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT THERE
GET THE HELL OUT!!
AS FOR YOU...OR ANY OF THEM, SUFFICE IT TO SAY I DON'T CONSIDER ANY OF YOUR LOT A FRIEND
I WANT TO GET STRONGER
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I HATE JOKES ABOUT DEATH...
COME ON, MITSURU...IT'S NOT FUNNY.

MITSURU~
WELL, IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE
BY THE TIME WE GOT TO HIM IT WAS

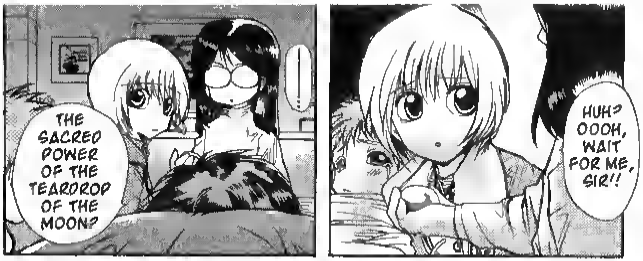
LOOK WE'RE STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF A JOB, GIRLIE, REMEMBER? COME ON
BUT . NOZOMU!! MITSURU... HE HE...
DEATH AMONGST OUR PEOPLE IS..
WELL, IT'S A QUIETER AND KINDER EXPERIENCE THAN THE SORT OF DEATH YOUR FOLK GO THROUGH

AKIRA... THINK YOU CAN STILL FLY?
YEAH...
LET'S GO HOME, OKAY? MITSURU?

THEN IT'S OVER, YOU KNOW IT'S ALL OVER, MITSURU .
LOOK...IF...IF YOU REALLY DIE NOW, THEN...
COME ON, PLEASE?

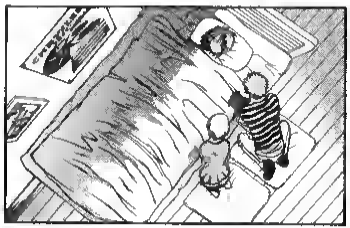
COME ON, MAHIRU LET IT GO, WILL YOU? HE'S DEAD HE'S REALLY DEAD.
SO...JUST LET HIM GO...LET HIM GO PEACEFULLY...
YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!! I WON'T EVER FORGIVE YOU IF YOU GO AWAY LIKE THIS!! NEVER!!
COME ON, MITSURU! PLEASE! WAKE UP!!

SHEEGH, SHUT THE HELL UP ALREADY!!
AND IT JUST IT WAS LIKE THAT AGAIN
AND THEN IT WASN'T... AND THEN IT WAS LIKE THAT.
WAS LIKE
AND THEN
WHOA
AND
IT WAS JUST IT WAS TOTALLY AMAZING!! HIM FIGHTING IT WAS AWESOME!!
YOU MEAN... THOSE PROFESSIONALS THE ONES THAT DEAL WITH THIS TYPE OF CASE?
YOUHEI!!
HUH?
THANKS TO THAT LITTLE INCIDENT AT THE PARK TOWER, THE BOYS UPSTAIRS DEEMED IT FIT TO "JUMP UP" OUR BUDGET A BIT. DO ME A FAVOR AND GO SET SOME SORT OF MEETING UP WITH "THOSE" KIDS WILL YOU?
HMMMPM
HUH? OOOH, WAIT FOR ME, SIR!!
OH WOW SO WE'RE FINALLY GETTING THE OKAY TO BRING "THOSE" KIDS IN, HUH?
BUT TRANSFORMING INTO A HUMAN LIKE THAT... DO YOU THINK IT'S A REAL PHYSICAL CHANGE OR
SO WHICH DO YOU THINK CAME FIRST, HUH? THE MAN OR THE MONSTER... THE MONSTER OR THE MAN..
OOOH, OOOH, GUESS WHAT, KUSAKABE!! I RAN FACE TO FACE INTO ANOTHER ONE OF 'EM, SIR!! ISN'T THAT NEAT?
WAY HUGE!!
EXIT
IN THE END, WHO GIVES A CRAP HOW THEY TRANSFORM? THEY MIGHT MASQUERADE AS HUMANS, BUT THEY'RE STILL DAMN MONSTERS..
...I MEAN... WHAT KIND OF FRIGGIN HUMAN COULD POSSIBLY CHANGE THEMSELVES INTO A MONSTER, HUH? SO IT MUST BE THE MONSTER CHANGED ITSELF INTO A HUMAN FIRST, THEN...

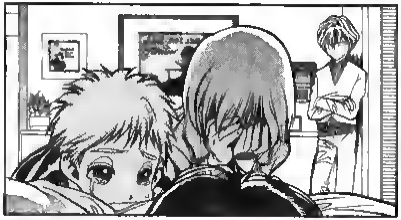

THE SACRED POWER OF THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON?
HUH? OOOH, WAIT FOR ME, SIR!!

I'VE TAKEN CARE OF SPEAKING WITH OBORO. WE HAVE PERMISSION TO USE THE "TEARDROP". THE REST IS UP TO YOU, PRINCESS.
!?
THE SACRED POWER OF THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON? -

SQUEEZE
WAKE UP, MITSURU PLEASE, WAKE UP
OH...THANK YOU...THANK YOU SO MUCH



Moon Shine
CLOSED



MOMMY?
MOMMY?
MOMMY?
MOM?
WHERE WHERE AM I?
DAD?!
DADDY!!
BUT WHAT AM I DOING HERE ?
WHERE ARE YOU?
WHERE ARE YOU?
WHERE ARE YOU?
WHERE HAVE YOU GONE--?!
WHERE ARE YOU--?!
WHERE ARE YOU?!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?
ME WHEN I GOT ABANDONED?
--IS THAT REALLY ME?
DEAD PEOPLE?!
AHH
AHH
I CAN'T BREATHE
WAAH!!
NO!!
WAAH!!
WHERE IN THE WORLD AM I ?

SO PLEASE DON'T DIE
DARN IT, MITSURU!! LISTEN UP, OKAY!! I'VE STILL GOT A BONE TO PICK WITH YOU!!
ACTUALLY, A TON OF THEM!!

PLEASE DON'T DIE

THAT'S ME WHEN I WAS YOUNGER?
A LULLABY?
Demon child, demon child
Why do you cry?
In the deep of the forest that the sun sets upon,

WAS I KILLED?
OR WAS IT SUICIDE?
DID MY OWN FRIENDS BETRAY ME?
IS THIS REALLY IT? AM I REALLY GOING TO DIE? OR AM I...?
ALREADY...
GONE...?

MITSURU
I'M OVER HERE

WAAAAHHH
SOMEONE!! HELP ME!!
THEY'RE CARRYING ME AWAY!!

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!! GO AWAY!
NO!! NOT THAT DAMN GIRL AGAIN!!

I CAN'T BREATHE

WAAHH
WAAHH

WAAHH.

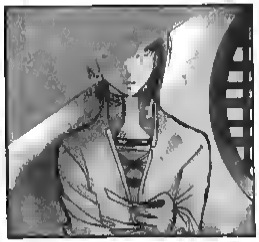
MITSURU!!
MITSURU!!
WE MIGHT HAVE A MILLION OOO WEAKNESSES THAT WE DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT!!
YOU CAN'T TAKE CHANCES LIKE THAT, MITSURU WE'RE NOT HUMANS
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY GO GET CHANGED TOO
YEAH.
COME ON LET'S GO TAKE A REST UPSTAIRS OKAY?
I'LL GO GET YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK OKAY?
WAKE UP, MITSURU!!
?!

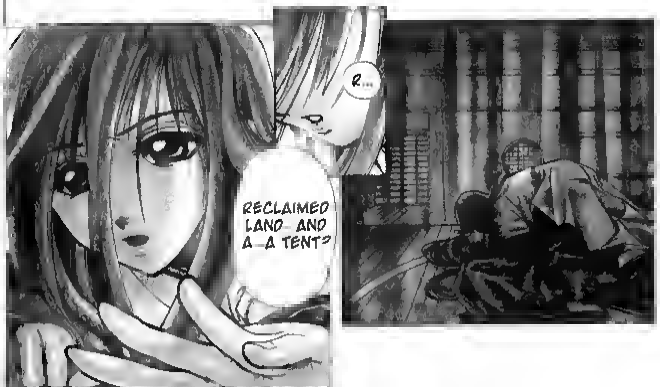
I GUESS IN A WAY WHAT HAPPENED JUST NOW HAS BROUGHT YOU A STEP CLOSER TO US
SQUEEZE
KOTOW
THIS WAS THE PRINCESS' CHOICE HER SOLUTION
DON'T WASTE HER HELP

HUH? THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON?
EYES RED FROM CRYING
THIS ONE'S USELESS NOW I CAN'T SENSE ANY MORE ENERGY FROM IT
HUFF
WELL, OUR TOLERANCE FOR MAN-MADE SUBSTANCES LIKE THAT SLEEPING GAS THEY USED ON YOU IT'S DEVASTATING, TO SAY THE LEAST
CHRYSLERS FIFTH MONAT
OUR WEAK SPOTS ARE MANY, LIKE THE DEADLY ONE YOU JUST FELL VICTIM TO IT'S NOT THAT WE HAVE TO HAVE UNSPOILED NATURE TO SURVIVE, BUT OUR COMPATIBILITY WITH
QUITE FRANKLY, JUST BY EXISTING ON THIS PLANE WE RECEIVE SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE
LOOK, MITSURU, SINCE YOU GREW UP AMONGST HUMANS, YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE VULNERABILITIES OUR PEOPLE POSSESS, BUT

HMPH... GREAT...
AND NOW I OWE THAT DAMN GIRL... JUST FRIGGIN' GREAT...

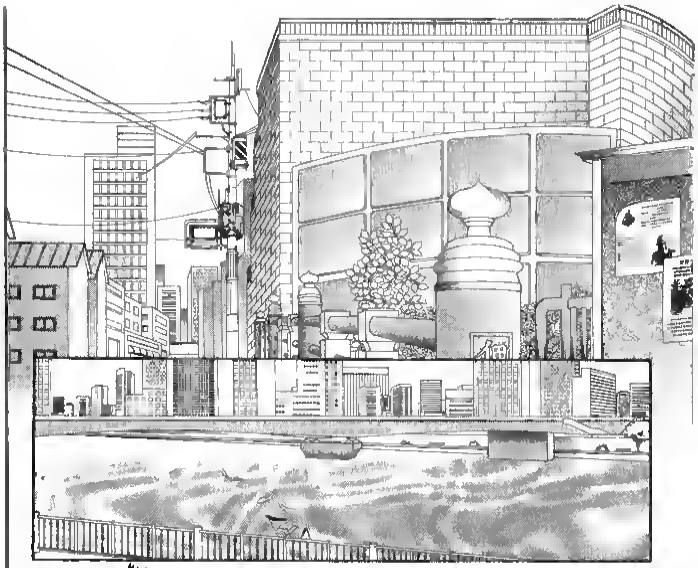
YOU KNEW DIDN'T YOU YOU KNEW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN
MAY I HELP YOU?
SUCH A LITTLE SNOT
MAYBE YES MAYBE NO.
HEH, YOU HEARD THAT, HUH? DAMN EARS OF YOURS
OH, IS THE POT CALLING THE KETTLE BLACK?
WAKE UP, MITSURU
WAS I SAVED... BECAUSE OF THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON'S POWER?

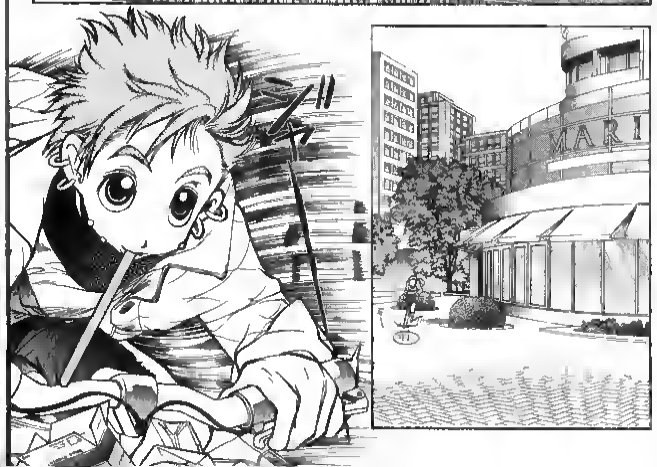



R...
RECLAIMED LAND... AND A...A TENT?

THE "WPF"... WHAT IS IT?
KEI?!
FLAGG... WPF
OH WHAT FUN IT SEEMS...THAT LITTLE WORLD PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL.
The First Moon
The Demons Encounter and Battle an Ancient Enemy.
Part 1.

THE BEASTS ARE COMING!!
THE MONSTERS!
AND SO MANY PEOPLE PUSHING...
FLAGG . SO MANY OF THEM
THEY'RE COMING? YES, I SEE! THE WPF



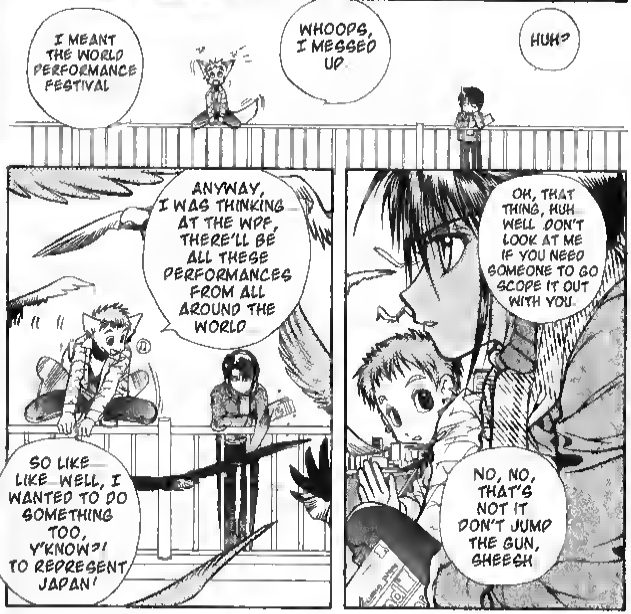

MARI

POLICE

AHH... GOOD!! AND DON'T COME BACK!!
HMM
OH.
OH.
THAT'S RIGHT TENGU CAN CONTROL THE WINDS FREELY, CAN'T THEY?
THAT'S GOT TO BE ONE OF THE COOLEST THINGS EVER
AHH, THIS WIND MUST BE MITSURU'S DOING...

Rin
Rin
Rin
MITSURU!!
HEEEYYYY!! WHADDYA DOING?!

SO, LIKE ABOUT THAT WORLD PACIFIC FIESTA THING...
AND THEN I'LL SHOW THAT MISOKA
OF COURSE I CAN. I KNOW THAT...AND I WILL.

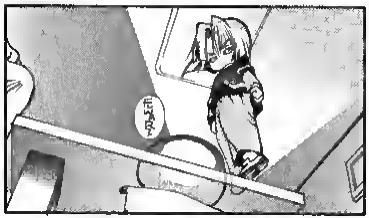

I MEANT THE WORLD PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL
WHOOPS, I MESSED UP.
HUH?
ANYWAY, I WAS THINKING...AT THE WPF, THERE'LL BE ALL THESE PERFORMANCES FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD
SO LIKE...LIKE...WELL, I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING TOO, Y'KNOW?! TO REPRESENT JAPAN!
OH, THAT THING, HUH...WELL...DON'T LOOK AT ME IF YOU NEED SOMEONE TO GO SCOPE IT OUT WITH YOU.
NO, NO, THAT'S NOT IT. DON'T JUMP THE GUN, SHEESH.

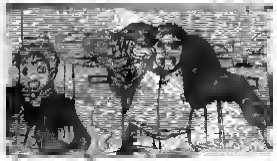
...
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO SAY WHEN HE YAKS ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT...
SAY, MITSURU...
I THINK THAT IF YOU REALLY, REALLY TRIED TO DO SOMETHING, THEN YOU COULD GET LIKE...WELL, SUPER STRONG, YOU KNOW?

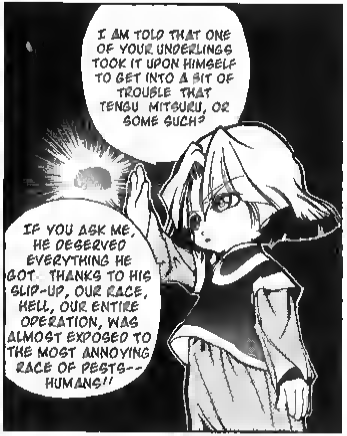
AKIRA, ARE YOU NUTS? THE ONLY REASON WE'RE GOING TO THE WPF IS TO SCOPE OUT THE JOINT SO WE CAN NAB A TEARDROP OF THE MOON
THE OPERATIVE WORDS BEING, "SCOPE OUT" THAT MEANS WE'RE NOT GOING THERE TO...WAH!!
SMACK
AND WHY WOULD I WASTE MY TIME TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT, HUH?
YOU WANT TO GET STRONGER, RIGHT? WELL, I WANT TO HELP YOU!
CLICK
AKIRA!!
BAAAGGSHHH
THAT HURT MAN!
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?! YO!!
BGM: THE MARCH OF THE PUPPIES

TWO DAYS FROM NOW
AND, PRAY TELL, WHEN DID YOU BECOME THE OFFICIAL JAPANESE WPF REP?
TO WHAT? TO REPRESENT JAPAN? WHEN?
UH, HUH... RIGHT
HUH? HMM... MAYBE JUST NOW? YEAH, THAT'S IT! I JUST DECIDED TO DO IT NOW
WHADDYA SAY, MITSURU? WANNA BE MY PARTNER? WE COULD LIKE, STAGE A SWORD FIGHT OR SOMETHING WEAR TRADITIONAL DRESS AND ALL THAT STUFF!
SOOOOO!!

YOU'RE NOT THE "EMPEROR OF THE MOON," UNCLE. I AM!! AND YET YOU DARE QUESTION MY WILL? YOU DARE TO DEFY ME?

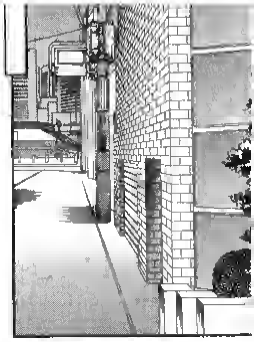

HMPH!




I AM TOLD THAT ONE OF YOUR UNDERLINGS TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO GET INTO A BIT OF TROUBLE THAT TENGU MITSURU, OR SOME SUCH?
IF YOU ASK ME, HE DESERVED EVERYTHING HE GOT. THANKS TO HIS SLIP-UP, OUR RACE, HELL, OUR ENTIRE OPERATION, WAS ALMOST EXPOSED TO THE MOST ANNOYING RACE OF PESTS--HUMANS!!

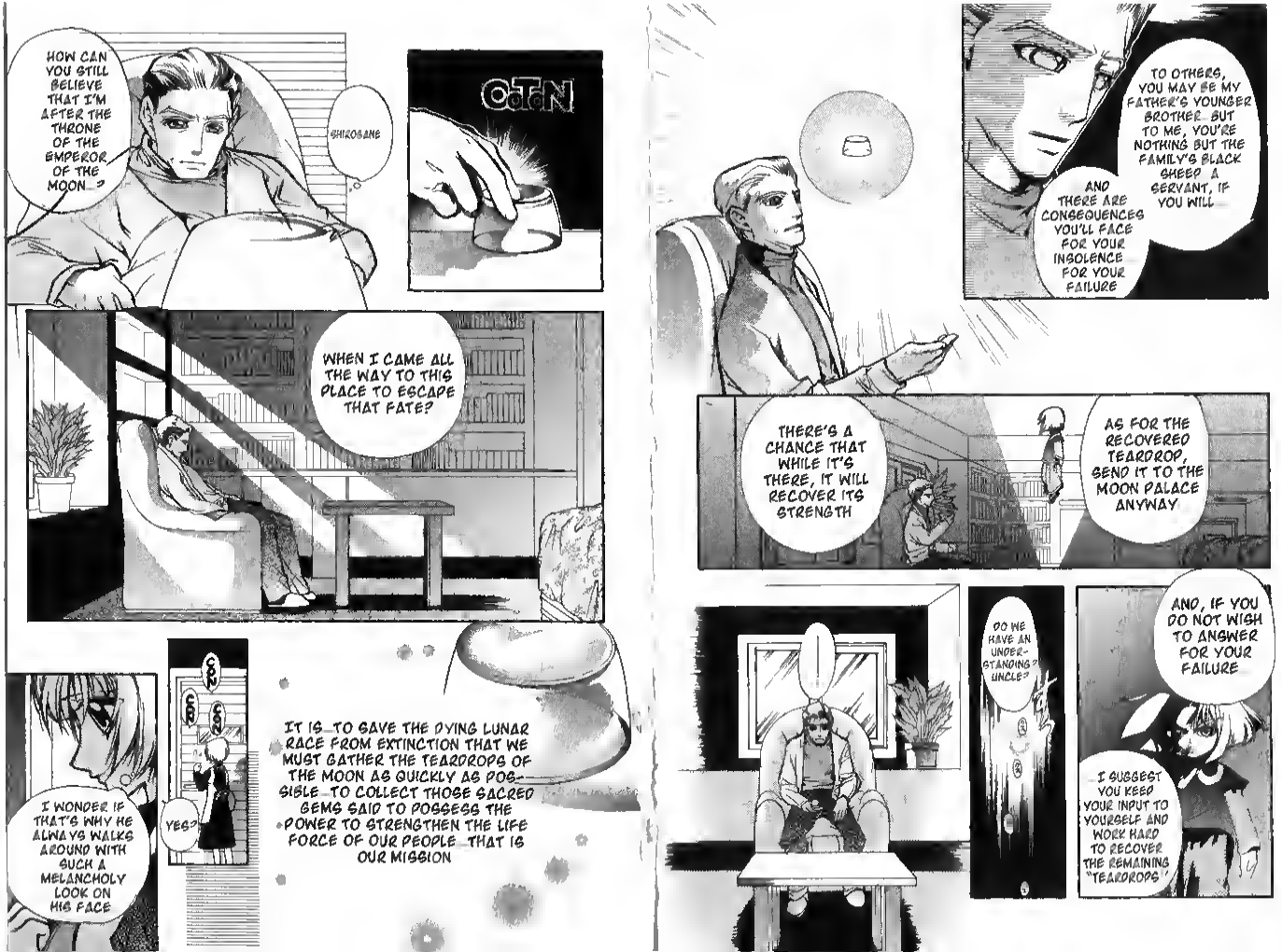
BUT THAT WASN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU, WAS IT, UNCLE? YOU JUST HAD TO EXACERBATE THE SITUATION EVEN MORE, DIDN'T YOU?
WASTING A VALUABLE TEARDROP ON A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING IDIOT LIKE THAT!

BUT SHIROGANE!
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, TALKING TO ME?!

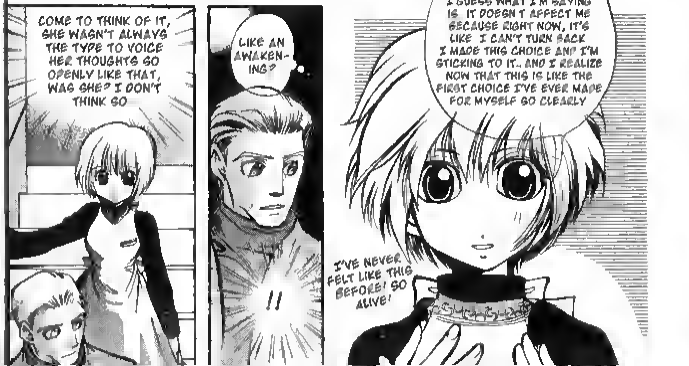


...

I AM THE ONE TRUE LEADER OF THE DEMON CLAN AND SUPREME RULER OF ALL THE "LUNAR RACE". I AM "EMPEROR OF THE MOON" AND YOU SHALL RESPECT AND ADDRESS ME AS SUCH!!
NEVER FORGET YOUR PLACE AGAIN, OBORO. THE THRONE OF THE MOON PALACE BELONGS TO ME AND NO ONE ELSE!!


HOW CAN YOU STILL BELIEVE THAT I'M AFTER THE THRONE OF THE EMPEROR OF THE MOON...?
CHIKOSANE
CLICK
WHEN I CAME ALL THE WAY TO THIS PLACE TO ESCAPE THAT FATE?
I WONDER IF THAT'S WHY HE ALWAYS WALKS AROUND WITH SUCH A MELANCHOLY LOOK ON HIS FACE
CHI
KO
SA
NE
YES?
IT IS...TO SAVE THE DYING LUNAR RACE FROM EXTINCTION THAT WE MUST GATHER THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE...TO COLLECT THOSE SACRED GEMS SAID TO POSSESS THE POWER TO STRENGTHEN THE LIFE FORCE OF OUR PEOPLE...THAT IS OUR MISSION
TO OTHERS, YOU MAY BE MY FATHER'S YOUNGER BROTHER. BUT TO ME, YOU'RE NOTHING BUT THE FAMILY'S BLACK SHEEP. A SERVANT, IF YOU WILL...
AND THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES YOU'LL FACE FOR YOUR INSOLENCE FOR YOUR FAILURE
THERE'S A CHANCE THAT WHILE IT'S THERE, IT WILL RECOVER ITS STRENGTH
AS FOR THE RECOVERED TEARDROP, SEND IT TO THE MOON PALACE ANYWAY
DO WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING? UNCLE?
AND, IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO ANSWER FOR YOUR FAILURE...
I SUGGEST YOU KEEP YOUR INPUT TO YOURSELF AND WORK HARD TO RECOVER THE REMAINING TEARDROPS.

AND YET, WHEN I'M HERE, I DON'T FEEL THAT WAY YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
WHAT I MEAN IS.. IF I OR ANYONE REALLY SAT DOWN AND THOUGHT ABOUT IT--ABOUT WHAT I'VE DONE.. AM DOING ABOUT THIS PLACE AND YOU GUYS, WELL.. THEY'D THINK, SEE THIS IS JUST REALLY TOTALLY WRONG
I DON'T EVEN FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT PART MYSELF
OH, AND IN OUR CULTURE, THE HUMAN ONE I MEAN, THAT'S A BIG NO-NO YOU KNOW WORRYING YOUR FAMILY LIKE THAT ANYWAY
LIKE, WHEN PEOPLE AROUND ME SAY, "HOW COULD YOU HURT YOUR FAMILY LIKE THAT? YOU'RE WORRYING THEM SICK," WELL


COME TO THINK OF IT, SHE WASN'T ALWAYS THE TYPE TO VOICE HER THOUGHTS SO OPENLY LIKE THAT, WAS SHE? I DON'T THINK SO
LIKE AN AWAKENING?
I GUESS WHAT I'M SAYING IS IT DOESN'T AFFECT ME BECAUSE RIGHT NOW, IT'S LIKE I CAN'T TURN BACK I MADE THIS CHOICE AND I'M STICKING TO IT.. AND I REALIZE NOW THAT THIS IS LIKE THE FIRST CHOICE I'VE EVER MADE FOR MYSELF SO CLEARLY
I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE THIS BEFORE! SO ALIVE!

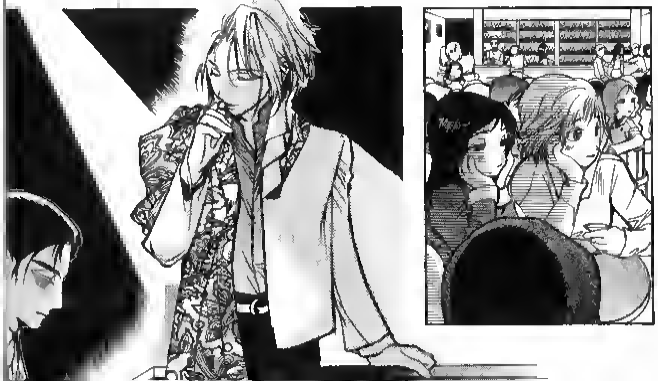
EXCUSE ME, OSORO I MEAN, UM, SE, MASTER IT'S GETTING QUITE BUSY DOWN THERE SO
OSORO
HMM?
OH, YES SLOWLY BUT SURELY
SO, ARE YOU FINALLY GETTING ACCUSTOMED TO THINGS AROUND HERE YET, PRINCESS?

IT'S JUST THAT I FEEL SORT OF HMM NUMB, I GUESS

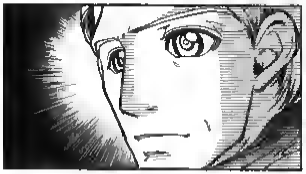
SHE'S TAKEN CARE OF ME SINCE SHE WAS IN HER EARLY TWENTIES SHE'S DONE MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ME
I SORT OF LEFT WITHOUT A PROPER EXPLANATION SO I'M WORRIED ABOUT MY AUNT, BUT
NOW SHE CAN FINALLY GET MARRIED, AT LEAST

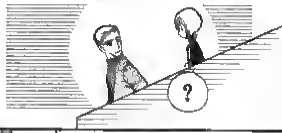
PRINCESS WOULD IT INTEREST YOU AT ALL TO LEARN A BIT MORE ABOUT US?

WANT ME TO TAKE OVER?



MITSURU
I CAN'T HELP BUT GET A GOOD VIBE ABOUT ALL OF THIS. I THOUGHT THAT THAT HORRIBLE EVENT HAD ONLY CHANGED MITSURU BUT
TO GIVE THE PRINCESS SO ENERGIZED AND COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE AFTER IT IS MORE THAN I EVER COULD HAVE ASKED FOR...



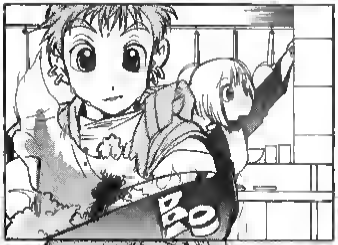

?

IT'S AS IF I'M STARING AT A TEARDROP OF THE MOON ITSELF. SHE'S SO VIBRANT...SO FULL OF STRENGTH
OR IS THAT JUST HER RELAXED FACE? THE PRINCESS WITH HER TRUST AND BEING FULLY OPEN TO US ?

BUT THE PRINCESS AS WELL. ?
UNLESS MITSURU WASN'T THE ONLY ONE GIVEN NEW LIFE BY THE TEARDROP

NOZOMU WAS THE RESULT OF A UNION BETWEEN AN ENGLISHMAN AND A YOUNG WOMAN WHO ALSO HAPPENED TO DESCEND FROM A CLAN OF DEMONS HERE IN JAPAN. HIS FATHER WAS A POWERFUL VAMPIRE, POWERFUL ENOUGH TO NOT ONLY WALK IN SUNLIGHT, BUT TO EXIST AS YOU AND I. AN ABILITY OBVIOUSLY INHERITED BY NOZOMU AS YOU'VE WITNESSED FOR YOURSELF.
IT'S SO HARD TO TELL WHEN HE'S KIDDING AN WHEN HE'S NOT WHEN IT COMES TO NOZOMU

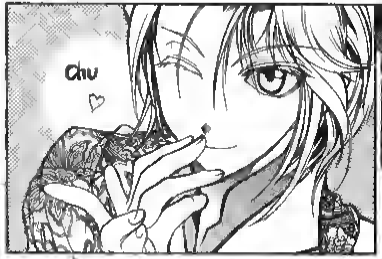
MAHIRU, COULD YOU TAKE THIS CHILI SHRIMP TO THE FOLKS AT COUNTER FIVE?
SURE


BOO

AKIRA WAS BORN IN NORTH EASTERN JAPAN. HE LOST HIS PARENTS EARLY ON, JUST AS YOU DID, PRINCESS
BUT THE WEREWOLF POPULATION UP THERE IS AMPLE AND TIGHT, SO HE WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO GROW UP HAPPILY, WITH THE LOVE OF HIS EXTENDED FAMILY

WOW. HE'S LIKE TOTALLY SERIOUS WHEN HE COOKS, HUH?

HERE YOU ARE, MA'AM
OMIGOSH!! HE'S LOOKING THIS WAY!!


Chu

THEY MUST BE PLAYING IT OFF AS KATSURA BEING A SET OF TWINS, I GUESS...
THAT'S RIGHT... SHION IS KATSURA'S LAST NAME ISN'T IT.
DARN IT! SO I GUESS HIS SISTER ONLY SHOWS UP DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE MONTH, HUH?
LUCKY DAY! TODAY'S THE SHION BROTHER'S SHIFT
HE SAID HE'S TAKING REQUESTS TOO! HOW DREAMY.
GOSH! HE'S SOOOO BEAUTIFUL
AS FOR KATSURA, SHE LIVES THE FIRST HALF OF THE MONTH AS A WOMAN, AND THE LAST HALF AS A MAN. SHE'S A HERMAPHRODITE TECHNICALLY. BUT HER SEX WILL CHANGE COMPLETELY EVERY HALF-MONTH
KATSURA IS WHAT'S KNOWN AS A DREAM DEMON, BUT DON'T WORRY, I BELIEVE SHE'LL MAKE A GREAT CONFIDANT TO YOU
OF COURSE
SAY, COULD YOU TAKE A REQUEST TO HIM, PLEASE?

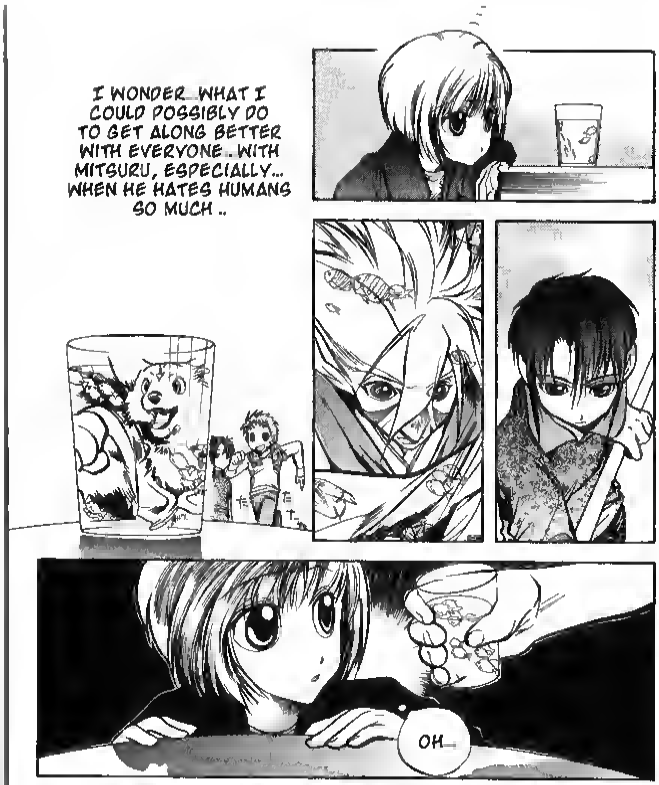
HMM, WHICH ONE'S THE SALTY DOG AGAIN?
THE WHITE ONE GOES TO TABLE 8, PRINCESS.
MISOKA, DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE ORANGES ARE...?
ON TOP OF THE COUNTER, SIR.
WHEN HIS MOTHER PASSED AWAY AFTER AN ILLNESS THOUGH, I TOOK HIM UNDER MY WING.
MISOKA GREW UP IN THE MOON PALACE WHERE CLOTHING, AND HIS MOTHER, A WEREFOX, WORKED IN MY SERVICE.

EVER SINCE THAT NIGHT, HE DOESN'T GET MAD AT ME ANYMORE BUT...
SIGH
HE STILL WON'T EVEN MEET MY GAZE
...

EVEN AFTER PULLING QUITE A FEW STRINGS, IT WAS ONLY A YEAR AGO THAT WE WERE FINALLY ABLE TO TAKE HIM IN TO OUR FOLD. WE CONSIDER OURSELVES BLESSED, HOWEVER, THAT WE WERE ABLE TO DISCOVER HIM BEFORE HE BECAME AN ADULT.
AS FOR MITSURU...I'M SURE YOU'VE ALREADY DEDUCED THIS, BUT HE WAS INDEED A WARD OF THE STATE IN THE HUMAN WORLD FOR SOME TIME

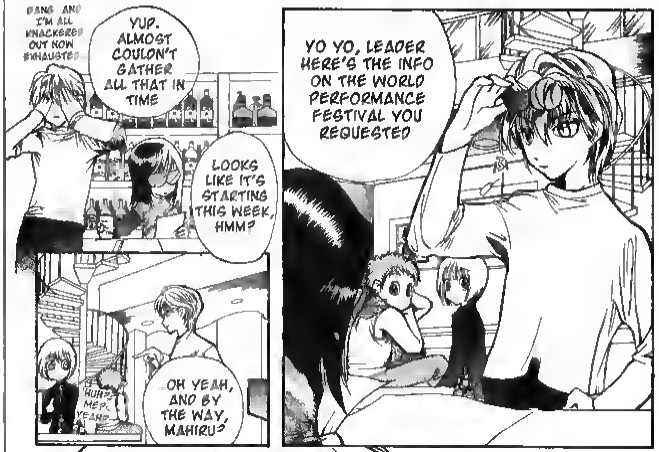
LOOK, THAT'S THE ONE I WAS TALKING ABOUT

EH? WHERE'D HE GO?
I'VE GOT ONE MORE REQUEST TO PLAY BEFORE I GET TO YOURS THAT OKAY?
SIGH
I MUST BE SEEING THINGS AGAIN
HMM? OH, YES TOTALLY! THANKS
I'VE COME THIS FAR TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MYSELF...ABOUT MY POWERS...
I'VE HAD THIS DREAM SINCE FOREVER...MY RECURRING DREAM ABOUT A YOUNG DEMON AND A BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS...
BUT...I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO FROM HERE...

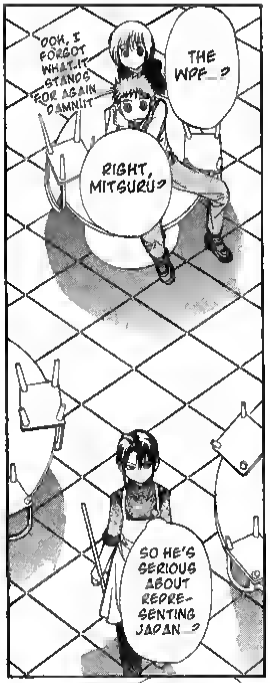

I WONDER... WHAT I COULD POSSIBLY DO TO GET ALONG BETTER WITH EVERYONE... WITH MITSURU, ESPECIALLY... WHEN HE HATES HUMANS SO MUCH...
OH...
EWW! YOU GOT ALL WET! I'M SORRY!!
WOW!! HE DRANK THE WHOLE THING
UMM, THAT'S TAP WATER BY THE WAY
ごくごく

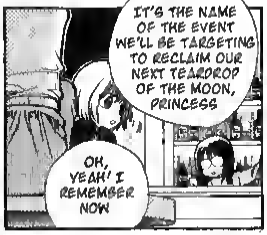
I MADE THE DECISION TO LIVE WITH THESE PEOPLE... ON THE CHANCE I'D LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BIZARRE POWERS I POSSESS...
BUT IS THAT REALLY ALL THERE IS TO IT? IS THAT TRULY WHY I'M HERE...? WHAT IS IT THAT I, I REALLY WANT FROM ALL OF THIS?
I'M SORRY! IT WAS NOTHING...
?

I'M SOOO EXCITED~~~~~~
わくわく

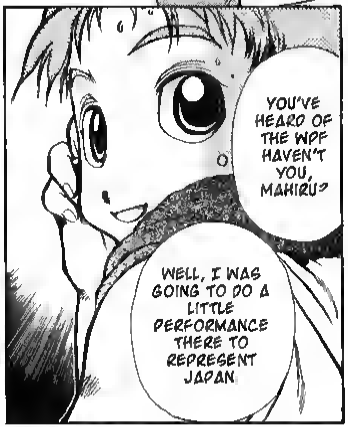

BANG AND I'M ALL WHACKED OUT NOW EXHAUSTED
YUP. ALMOST COULDN'T GATHER ALL THAT IN TIME
LOOKS LIKE IT'S STARTING THIS WEEK, HMM?
OH YEAH, AND BY THE WAY, MAHIRU?
HUH? ME? YEAH?
YO YO, LEADER HERE'S THE INFO ON THE WORLD PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL YOU REQUESTED

I'LL TRY MY BESTEST!!
YEPPERS TOMORROW WE WERE PLANNING ON SCOPING OUT THE FESTIVAL GROUNDS, SO DON'T MAKE ANY PLANS, 'KAY?


THE WOF_?
OOH, I FORGOT WHAT IT STANDS FOR AGAIN DAMNIT
RIGHT, MITSURU?
SO HE'S SERIOUS ABOUT REPRE-SENTING JAPAN_?


IT'S THE NAME OF THE EVENT WE'LL BE TARGETING TO RECLAIM OUR NEXT TERROR OF THE MOON, PRINCESS
OH, YEAH! I REMEMBER NOW

AKIRA, ARE YOU DOING SOME KIND OF HARDCORE TRAINING OR SOMETHING? YOU'RE DRENCHED WITH SWEAT
YUP! JUST A BIT OF PRACTICE


YOU'VE HEARD OF THE WOF HAVEN'T YOU, MAHIRU?
WELL, I WAS GOING TO DO A LITTLE PERFORMANCE THERE TO REPRESENT JAPAN

SO OUR CLASS TRIP IS GOING TO BE TO KYOTO, HUH, NARA?
CLASS TRIP: NARA, KYOTO
OH?
HEY, MAHIRU, THEY SAID THEY'RE GOING TO PICK OUR NAMES OUT OF A HAT TO GROUP US
COME ON, GIRLIE LEND US ALL SOME LUCK ON THIS, PLEASE? OUCKIE~
YEAH, MAHIRU! MAKE SURE WE ALL END UP IN THE SAME GROUP!

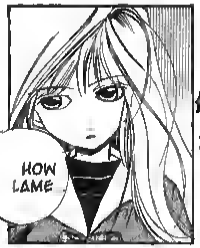
OOO'WWW!! KYAAINN.
OOHH, I GOT HURT
HA HA, IT'S JUST A RECON THING, SWEETIE NOT THE REAL DEAL
SO THERE'S NO NEED TO GET ALL GUNG HO
THAT'S SOOO WEIRD I'VE NEVER REALLY BLED FROM IT BEFORE THOUGH
AND WHOSE FAULT IS THAT? YOU'RE ALWAYS FUTZING AROUND WITH THOSE DAMN THINGS
SOMEONE GET A TISSUE
WONDER IF I'M GETTING SICK...?
..DISINFECTION TIME

UMM, SORRY GUYS I HAVE TO GO USE THE BATHROOM FOR A SEC
UPSTAIRS?
CHU CHU.
MAHIRU'S PET BAT, MR BAT
OH MY GOSH, DID YOU SEE THAT? THERE WAS LIKE A BAT FLYING OUTSIDE THE WINDOW
A BAT? EWWW--- -BUT IT'S NOT EVEN DARK OUTSIDE YET
I WONDER WHAT MR BAT'S DOING AT SCHOOL OF ALL PLACES DAMN I HOPE NOTHING'S WRONG

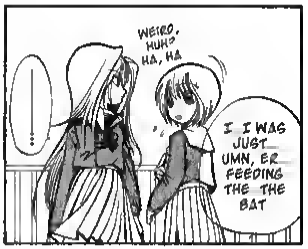
JUST MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T GET IN OUR GROUP, OKAY?
JUNKO
HMMPH, WOULD YOU LOOK AT HER? JUST BECAUSE SHE'S PRETTY SHE THINKS SHE CAN BE -MIGE-BETTER-THAN-THOU, HUH?
KEIKO HIMURA, HUH HMM, WELL, SHE DOES SEEM KIND OF UNAP-PROACHABLE FOR SURE A BIT COLD I GUESS
OH, PLEASE, MAHIRU, PLEASE DON'T LET US END UP IN THE SAME GROUP AS THAT SNOT-TASTIC HIMURA WENCH!
STAND
WHAT'S UP, MR BAT?!

OH, THERE YOU ARE!! MR BAT!!
MAKIRU, WE'RE CURRENTLY OVER AT THE WPF HALL
SORRY FOR SENDING SENOR BAT. DIDN'T MEAN TO FREAK YOU OUT.
SCUFF SCUFF
THAT'S THE EXHIBITION HALL WHERE THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON'S SUPPOSED TO BE DISPLAYED, RIGHT? WAIT A MINUTE. I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T GOING THERE UNTIL LATER THIS EVENING
EH? MITSURU?
WOW! THIS PLACE IS HUGE
I GUESS AKIRA THAT DIMWIT HAD HIS OWN
WELL, THAT WAS OUR ORIGINAL PLAN BUT

AND REMEMBER? MITSURU'S STAYING HOME TODAY SAID THERE'S NO REASON FOR THE WHOLE LOT OF US TO SHOW UP FOR SOMETHING THAT'S JUST RECON
AKIRA'S TAKING THE INITIATIVE HUH? HOW UNUSUAL
OH, THAT'S RIGHT
NO, AKIRA
ANYHOW, YOU KNOW HOW AKIRA GETS WHEN HE'S INTO SOMETHING DESPITE THOSE BIG-ASS CANINE EARS OF HIS, HE WON'T HEAR A WORD WE SAY SO ME AND MISOKA HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO JUST WATCH OVER HIM MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T GET HIMSELF INTO TROUBLE
ANYHOW, APPARENTLY AKIRA HAS MADE UP HIS MIND THAT HE'S GOING TO DO SOME SORT OF PERFORMANCE TODAY AT THE HALL SURPRISED THE HECK OUT OF ALL OF US.
AND I'M TOTALLY UTTER-MEGA EXCITED
I'M GOING TO DO A PERFORMANCE FOR THE WI
THAT WOULD BE GREAT GIVE US A RING WHEN YOU GET THERE AND WE'LL COME GET YOU
ALL RIGHT SHALL I MEET YOU AT THE ENTRANCE THEN?
OH THAT'S WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT
SO WE WERE WONDERING IF YOU COULD HEAD OVER TO THE HALL ASAP

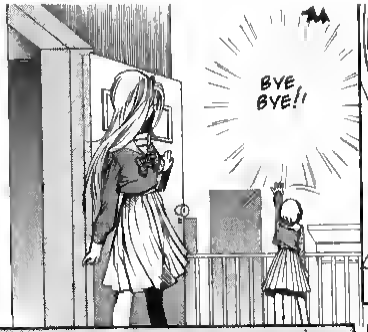

HOW LAME

OOH, I WONDER IF SHE SAW ME TALKING TO MR BAT


WEIRD, HUH? HA, HA
I I WAS JUST UMM, ER FEEDING THE THE BAT

UH, NO I SAID, HOW LAME
ME? LAME?
HUH? WHA H. HIMURA-SAN?

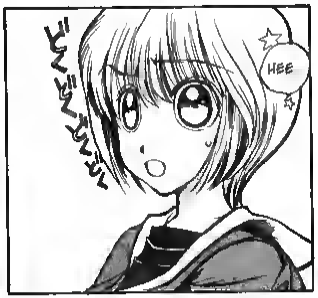
A LITTLE ADVICE, SHIRAISHI DON'T JUST DO WHATEVER OTHER PEOPLE WANT
.....
BUT IT WASN'T DIRECTED AT YOU, SHIRAISHI
YOU'RE PRETTY FAMOUS YOU KNOW THE GIRLS FROM THE SWIM TEAM SAY YOU "GIVE THEM LUCK" OR SOMETHING WILD LIKE THAT.
"
LAME IS WHAT I WAS DOING


BYE BYE!!

!!

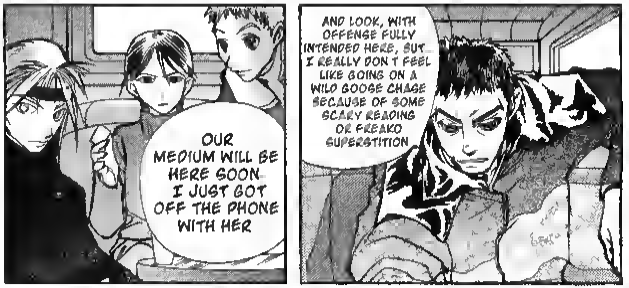
PHEW I'M GLAD THAT THAT'S ALL IT WAS AND NOT SOMETHING ELSE
OKAY, SO I GOTTA GET TO THE WEIGHT GROUNDS AS SOON AS SCHOOL LET'S OUT.

KEIKO HIMURA!!

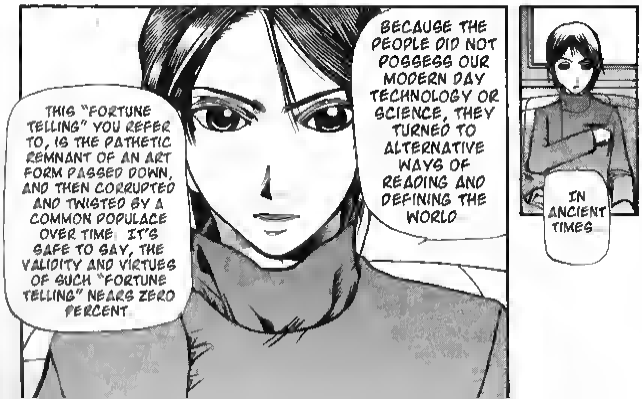

HEE
ビンビンビン

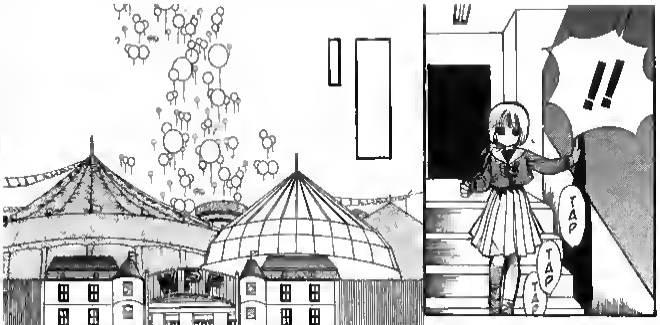
SEE? LIKE I SAID, "LAME, LAME, LAME" ISN'T IT? SORRY, I'VE A CALL... DO YOU MIND?
I MUST REALLY BE OUT OF IT, THINKING I'D SENSED SOMETHING STRONG ENOUGH FROM A GIRL LIKE THAT TO FOLLOW HER OUT OF A CLASSROOM...
HMM, MAHIRU SHIDAISHI... I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT HAVE SKILLS SIMILAR TO MY OWN BUT... I MUST HAVE OVERESTIMATED HER POWERS
THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS SAY "HELLO," KEIKO.
I'VE SAID IT ONCE AND I'LL SAY IT AGAIN. I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS... AND I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU!!
!!
YOU KNOW WHAT, BIRD-BRAIN? JUST GIVE IT UP, OKAY!!

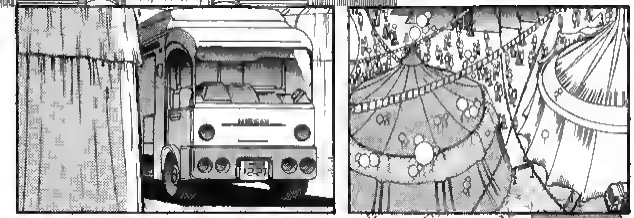
BECAUSE WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'LL END UP HURT IN THE END
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I THINK ABOUT THAT... BUT WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT YOU'RE JUST BETTER OFF NOT HAVING ANY SPECIAL "POWERS" AT ALL
D...DO YOU BELIEVE THAT TOO, HIMURA?
SORRY FOR THE INTRUSION. BUT I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE YOUR BEHAVIOR BACK IN CLASS...
I WONDER IF SHE FOLLOWED ME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE...
UZM, HIMURA... MIND IF I ASK WHY YOU WERE INTERESTED IN SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
HMMM. SO YOU'RE TELEPATHIC AS I SUSPECTED, EH? TALKING TO ANIMALS LIKE THAT
OH, SO YOU DON'T SEE THAT LITTLE EXCHANGE WITH ME EAT APPLE ALL?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? LITTLE ABILITY


OUR MEDIUM WILL BE HERE SOON. I JUST GOT OFF THE PHONE WITH HER
AND LOOK, WITH OFFENSE FULLY INTENDED HERE, BUT I REALLY DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE BECAUSE OF SOME SCARY READING OR FREAKO SUPERSTITION

KUSAKABE-SAN...
GREAT! SO THIS REALLY IS SOME HOKEY POKEY FORTUNE TELLING DEAL ISN'T IT?


THIS "FORTUNE TELLING" YOU REFER TO, IS THE PATHETIC REMNANT OF AN ART FORM PASSED DOWN, AND THEN CORRUPTED AND TWISTED BY A COMMON POPULACE OVER TIME. IT'S SAFE TO SAY, THE VALIDITY AND VIRTUES OF SUCH "FORTUNE TELLING" NEARS ZERO PERCENT.
BECAUSE THE PEOPLE DID NOT POSSESS OUR MODERN DAY TECHNOLOGY OR SCIENCE, THEY TURNED TO ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF READING AND DEFINING THE WORLD.
IN ANCIENT TIMES...


!!
TAP
TAP
TAP

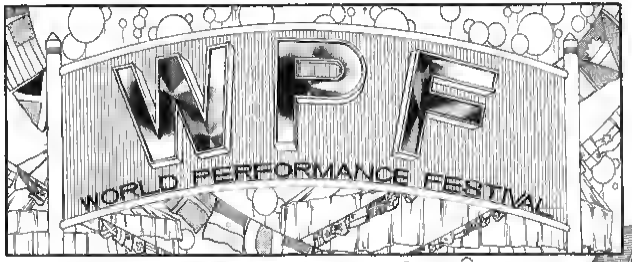


I MEAN WHAT'S THERE TO STEAL HERE? APPLAUSE?
YOU ABSOLUTELY POSITIVE THE "MOONLIGHT BANDITS" ARE GOING TO SHOW UP AT A PLACE LIKE THIS?

AND WHAT EXACTLY IS SO GOOD ABOUT THAT, HUH?
WELL? ANSWER ME DAMN IT!!

BAM

YOU'VE GOT BALLS, THAT'S FOR SURE
WHOA, SLOW DOWN THERE
HAH ALIVE!! NICE TO SEE YOUNG ISN'T IT? FEEL LIKE YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE?
TWITCHIE


WPF
WORLD PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL

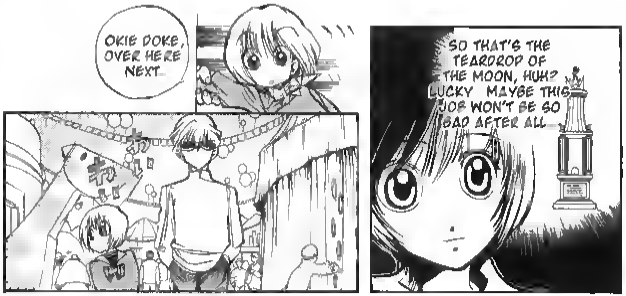
ソフトクリーム
AH I SENSE IT... THE POWER OF A TEARDROP OF THE MOON
WPF
WORLD PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL

BUT, YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY'RE AFTER

AND THAT IS WHERE WE DIFFER, INSPECTOR.
BECAUSE WE DID NOT "RECEIVE" THESE ANCIENT THEORIES SECOND HAND WE LIVE THESE THEORIES FIRST HAND-WE ARE THE "ORIGINALS" IF YOU WILL

AFTER ALL, THERE'S BARELY A HANDFUL OF YOU
NOT TO MENTION- AND THIS ISN'T TO BE RUDE BUT- HOW ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO PATROL AND PROTECT A PLACE OF THIS SIZE WITH ABSOLUTELY NO BACK-UP OR SECURITY?

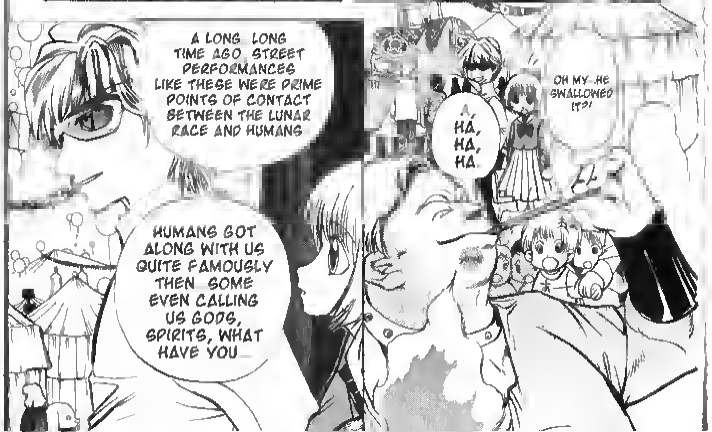
A MILLION GOOD FOR NOTHINGS ACCOUNT TO EXACTLY THAT NOTHING ZERO TIMES ANY NUMBER IS STILL ZERO, Y'KNOW.
IT'S NOT NUMBERS THAT MATTERS IN THINGS LIKE THIS


OKIE DOKE, OVER HERE NEXT...

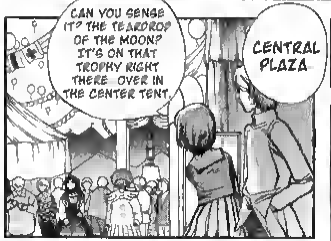
SO THAT'S THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON, HUH? LUCKY MAYBE THIS JOB WON'T BE SO BAD AFTER ALL...

WOW!! HE'S LIKE... BREATHING FIRE!!
TALK ABOUT HOT, HOT, HOT!!

OH MY GOSH! LOOK HOW HIGH UP HE IS!

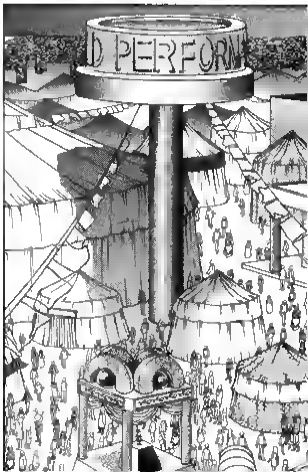

A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, STREET PERFORMANCES LIKE THESE WERE PRIME POINTS OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE LUNAR RACE AND HUMANS.
HUMANS GOT ALONG WITH US QUITE FAMOUSLY THEN. SOME EVEN CALLING US GODS, SPIRITS, WHAT HAVE YOU...
HA, HA, HA...
OH MY...HE SWALLOWED IT?!

NOZOMU!
HEY!! MAHIRU!! OVER HERE!!


CAN YOU SENSE IT? THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON? IT'S ON THAT TROPHY RIGHT THERE...OVER IN THE CENTER TENT.
CENTRAL PLAZA

中央広場
Central Plaza

YEAH...I CAN SEE IT GLOWING A BIT, JUST FAINTLY THOUGH...
ALL RIGHT!


PERFORM

HUH ?
HERE SHE COMES NOW, INSPECTOR.
OUR DEAR, LITTLE MEDIUM, ABLE TO PINPOINT THE EXACT LOCATION AND TIME OF THE BANDITS' NEXT TARGET
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
BATAN
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TWO. THIS IS KEIKO HIMURA, INSPECTOR
WOW GIRL, THAT CUTE IS A MEDIUM?
WELL, WHOOP-DEE-DOO, HERE I AM, AS PER YOUR SORRY ASS REQUEST.
AND, JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR ON THINGS, I REALLY DON'T WANT TO BE HERE RIGHT NOW, OR EVER AGAIN FOR THAT MATTER.
SO CONSIDER THIS THE LAST TIME I EVER HELP YOU OUT
PAN

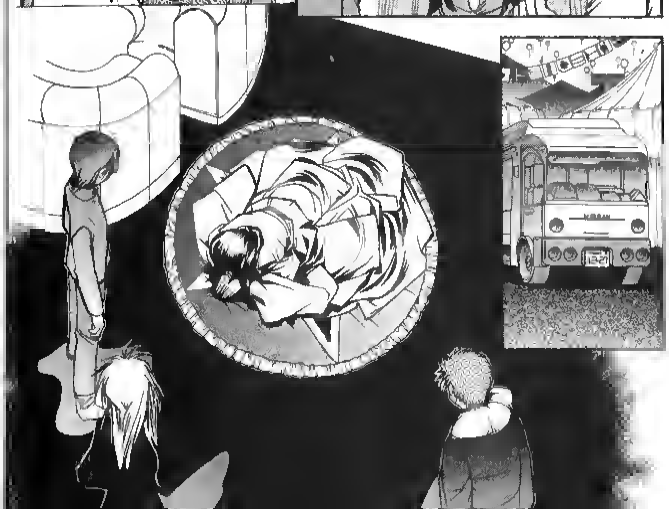
HMM? HIMURA?
OH YEAH?
REALLY? I NEVER HEARD THAT BEFORE
ALTHOUGH, IF SHE IS, SHE SURE DOESN'T LOOK TOO HAPPY ABOUT IT
OOO I WONDER IF SHE'S ON A DATE OR SOMETHING.
LET'S JUST SAY WE HAVE SPECIAL SKILLS, OKAY? VERY SPECIAL SKILLS
NISSAN

YES, SIRREE
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES THE MORE THE MERRIER, HUH?
OOH, ARE YOU GUYS IN-FIGHTING? NICE! COME ON NOW, DON'T HOLD BACK NOW
NOW, I DON'T MIND THAT THEY WANT TO DO THIS GO AHEAD, BE MY GUEST, YOU KNOW? BUT THERE'S NO WAY ON GOD'S GREEN EARTH THAT I'M BABYSITTING GOT IT?
LOOK HERE, YOUHEI, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I'M SURE AS HELL NOT A BABYSITTER
KUSAKABE!! WHERE ARE YOU GOING, SIR?
HMMPM
YOU'LL PROVE HIM WRONG, WON'T YOU? KEIKO?
GREAT, THAT ASS IS TOTALLY DISMISSING US AS FREAKIN' CHILDREN
158
CLINK
THE SAMURAI DOG READIES HIS BLADE
SWORD!!
A SWORD JUST LIKE THIS!
YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SEE IT, BUT IN MY HANDS RESTS A JAPANESE SWORD
MEANWHILE, THE NINJA...
...SENSES THE SAMURAI'S PRESENCE!
TAKE MY SHURIKEN!! WSSH, WSSH, WSSHH!!
AHH, SAMURAI DOG!! SO, THERE YOU ARE, WAITING FOR ME NO DOUBT!
WHAT?! WHAT'S THAT BETWEEN YOUR LEGS?
HOW DARE YOU USE YOUR PRIVATE PARTS TO DEFLECT MY SHURIKEN!! YOU DAMNED PERVERT!!
TAIL!!
EAT SHIT, GEEK YOU'RE THE PERVERT!! THAT'S JUST MY TAIL!!
BUT THE SAMURAI DOG EASILY DEFLECTS THE SHURIKEN WITH HIS BLADE
ARF!! CLINK
ARF!! CLINK
ALL A SUDDEN, SOMETHING EMERGES FROM BETWEEN HIS LEGS AND-- ARF!! CLINK
159

BUT...WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME, AREN'T WE?
WE MIGHT AS WELL JUST STEAL IT RIGHT NOW, THEN WHILE IT'S OUT ON DISPLAY.

UH, HUH, MMM, YES! I GOT IT! I JUST THOUGHT OF THE PERFECT PLAN

WHADDYA THINK ABOUT THIS, GUYS?
??



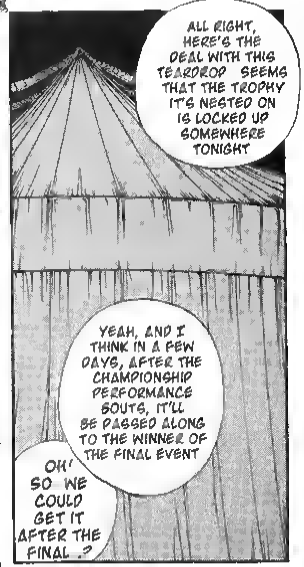
WOW, HE EVEN GOT A CHUCKLE OUT OF MISOKA
WELL WHADDYA KNOW WAY TO GO, AKIRA. HE'S GOT A TON OF PEOPLE WATCHING HIM
IF THERE'S ONE THING ABOUT AKIRA, HE'S A DARN GOOD PERFORMER

SNORT
COUGH

MAHIRU!!
HEEYYY!!

I SEE. SO IT'S TOO LATE THEN IF THE TROPHY'S ALREADY IN SOMEONE ELSE'S POSSESSION?
YOU'D THINK, BUT, SINCE THERE ARE SO MANY PARTICIPANTS STAYING IN A HUNDRED DIFFERENT HOTELS, IT'S KIND OF HARD TO TRACK DOWN AN EXACT PERSON TO AN EXACT ROOM

OH YEAH, SURE LET'S JUST GO ENTER IT'LL SOLVE ALL OUR PROBLEMS NOT!" WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH YOU, DUMB ASS?
IT'S EVEN WORSE IF IT GOES TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY RIGHT? SO WHAT IF I JUST GO WIN THE FINALS AND NAB IT THAT WAY

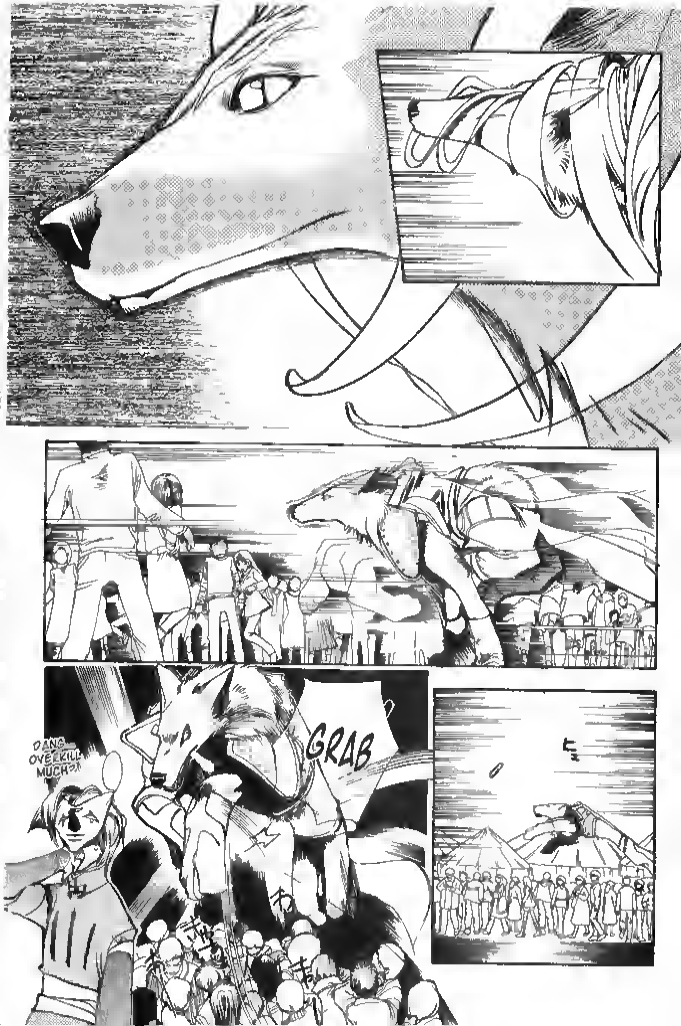

ALL RIGHT, HERE'S THE DEAL WITH THIS TEARDROP SEEMS THAT THE TROPHY IT'S NESTED ON IS LOCKED UP SOMEWHERE TONIGHT
YEAH, AND I THINK IN A FEW DAYS, AFTER THE CHAMPIONSHIP PERFORMANCE BOUTS, IT'LL BE PASSED ALONG TO THE WINNER OF THE FINAL EVENT
OH! SO WE COULD GET IT AFTER THE FINAL..?

ALMOST TIME, EH?
NOZOMU... WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO? ALL DRESSED UP LIKE THAT?
DON'T YOU WORRY YOUR SWEET NOGGIN' JUST LEAVE THIS UP TO US. NOW, GO BE A BYSTANDER WOULD YOU?
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, STEP RIGHT UP!!
AND FEAST YOUR EYES ON A RARE SPECIMEN. THAT'S RIGHT FOLKS, A WEREWOLF. A REAL GENUINE JAPANESE WEREWOLF!
HUH?
AKIRA!
NOW, WHETHER YOU BELIEVE THAT OR NOT, I'LL LEAVE UP TO YOU, BUT
WATCH CLOSELY FOLKS 'CAUSE YOU'LL MISS HIS INCREDIBLE STEALTH
EVERYONE'S STARING AT US!
THE CENTRAL PLAZA!!
I SEE A A STAGE IN THIS CLEARING
A WHITE DOG SPIRIT WILL APPEAR SOON TO A CLEARING TO THE E..EAST..
I SEE IT
ACTUALLY, NISHINO I WAS HOPING YOU COULD STAY HERE
I'D LIKE YOU TO ACT AS WITNESS TO OUR PROCEDURE THAT'LL WORK BETTER I BELIEVE
OH MAN, I BETTER GO TELL KUSAKABE QUICK!
KEIKO... CONTINUE
WE NEED MORE DETAILS IF YOU WOULD

CLINK

ALL RIGHT, AKIRA YOU READY?
OKAY THEN, KING, TIME FOR YOUR TRANS-FORMATION!! GO FETCH THAT BONE!!
MY NAME ISN'T KING, DAMN IT!!
OKAY!
GO ON, MAKIRU TOSS IT!
AND YOU, LITTLE LADY, IF YOU COULD JUST TOSS THIS LITTLE THING!
THE LITTLE THING
WHOOSH

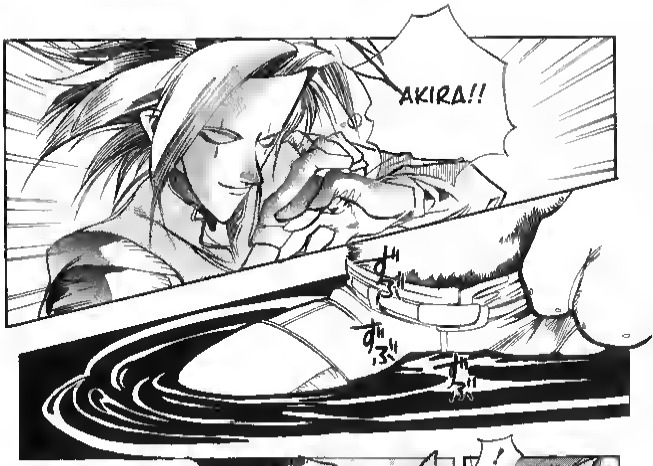
LET'S GO MAN!
HEY, DID YOU HEAR THAT? MUST BE SOMETHING AWESOME GOING ON OVER THERE
I WONDER HOW THEY DID THAT?! THAT GUY WENT FROM BEING JUST A GUY TO A WEREWOLF IN LIKE TWO SECONDS!!
HOLY CR@P?! DID YOU SEE THAT? IT WAS A WEREWOLF!
LET'S GO CHECK IT OUT!!
DAMN IT, THEY WENT TOO FAR
LET'S JUST HOPE NOTHING BAD COMES OF THIS
I'LL GO FETCH THE FIRE EXTINGUISHER!
I- I DON'T KNOW! BUT ALL A SUDDEN IT BURST INTO FLAMES!! OW! TOO HOT!
KLANG
WHOA!! HOT, HOT, HOT! THAT'S NO GOOD!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?


GRAB
DANG OVERKILL MUCH?!

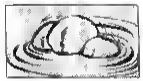
THANK YOU FOR WATCHING!! GOOO NIGHT!
ARF!!
ALL RIGHT, AKIRA LET'S GET OUTTA HERE
OOH, THE SIGNAL TO PULL OUT
わぁぁぁぁぁ…
WAH!!
!!

TINK
THERE WE GO
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE THAT THING ISN'T ON FIRE
HEY, WAKE UP, YOU
SHEESH HOW'D YOU MANAGE TO FALL ASLEEP IN THE FIVE SECONDS IT TOOK ME TO FETCH THE EXTINGUISHER HUH?
AWWOOO!!!
わぁぁぁぁぁ
わぁぁ
LOOK HOW WELL THEY MADE HIS COSTUME ISN'T HE BIG?

AAAHHH!!
AKIRAAAAAAA!!
AKIRA!!


AKIRA!!

!!



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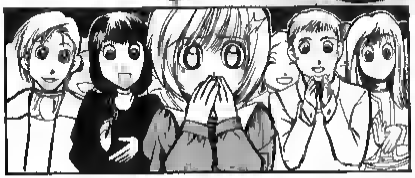

Crescent Moon

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